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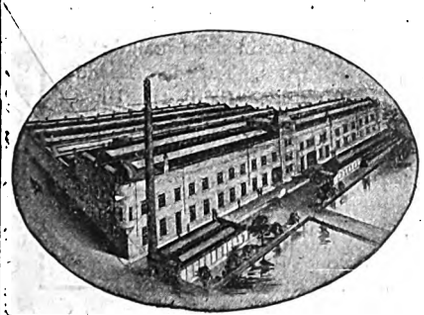

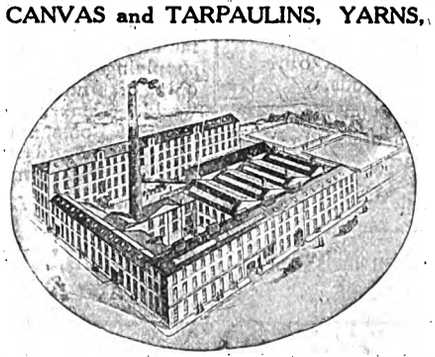

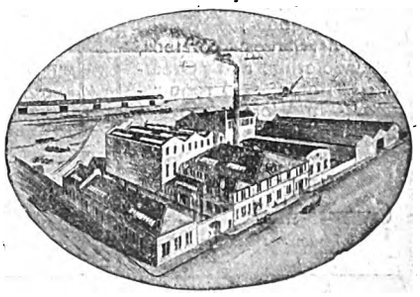

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Lausanne Conference.

The Lausanne Conference remains to all intents and purposes at the exact point which it had reached a week or weeks ago. On the question as to the currency in which the Ottoman Debt is to be paid Ismet Pasha is no longer free to act as a plenipotentiary; he is the mouthpiece of Angora, and Angora, having said its say, has hung up the receiver and left the telephone. France is as much the difficulty on this subject as she is on that of German Reparations; but she continues to be able to count on the loyal support of her Allies, and the settlement of the Near East is postponed accordingly. To end the deadlock, while escaping the charge of being responsible for breaking up the Conference, the Allied Governments are understood to be trying to reach agreement on a project that would enable the Treaty of Peace to be signed without reference to the Debt question. On the latter subject the Allies' "last word" would be presented to Turkey for acceptance or rejection on the clear understanding that Constantinople would not be evacuated until it was accepted.

Bulgaria at the Conference.

In its absorption over the questions of bondholders' claims, concessions, and the evacuation of Constantinople the Conference has hardly had time to recall that the matter of a Bulgarian outlet on the Ægean Sea has not yet been arranged. At a meeting, however, of a territorial committee dealing with the final arrangements for the cession of Karagatch, the new Bulgarian delegate, M. Morfoff, was present, and repeated the statement already made verbally to the delegates of the Great Powers that, as the January proposals for providing Bulgaria with access to the Ægean Sea failed to satisfy both parties, Bulgaria considered that she has the right to regard the question as still open to further examination, which it is hoped may result in a solution of the problem. The object of this statement was to meet the contention that Bulgaria's rejection of the Allies' proposals had rendered the resumption of negotiations impossible. With regard to Karagatch M. Morfoff made a declaration to the effect that Bulgaria, while accepting the clause for the demilitarisation of the Thracian frontiers, did not see her way to affixing her signature to the article for the free passage of goods in the Karagatch triangle, inasmuch as this right was already guaranteed her by the Barcelona Agreement, and acceptance of the article in question would conflict with her attitude on the subject of access to the sea. The objection was met by the Allies' agreeing to find a place for the Transit Article in the Treaty instead of incorporating it in the Thrace Convention.

The Turkish Elections.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha has had the strength of a giant at the Turkish elections, and has used his electoral strength as a giant. In Constantinople only the candidates on the ticket of his Defence of Rights Party have been elected, and in Asia Minor, as far as the results are known, equally sweeping victories seem to have been attained. Whether Turkey still has use for giants in these days remains to be seen. It would have been thought that such trouble as there has been at Angora with the extremists would have convinced Mustapha Kemal Pasha of the wisdom of allowing their enthusiasm to be curbed by fellow-deputies rather than by the exercise of his own authority. Of the advantage to Turkey of a varied representation in the National Assembly there can be no doubt, and the efforts made to eliminate all opposition will have shaken in many quarters faith in Mustapha Kemal Pasha's statesmanship.

The Palestine Problem.

Not the least trouble that the present British Government has to put up with is that it has still to cope with an attitude of the public mind frankly sceptical of Government honesty. Whether this attitude dates from the War period, when there was some excuse for making the worse appear the better cause, or whether it is due to the events of the post-War years, when opportunism was the only policy and pledges went by the board, will no doubt be eagerly canvassed by posterity. Nowhere is the sceptical attitude towards official statements more openly shown than in the case of Palestine, in regard to which the rashest statement of the most violent Arab agitator seems to have more reliance placed upon it than is accorded to Govern-

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ment declarations. There is undoubtedly an Arab side to the question, as there is a Jewish side; it seems hard, however, that the British side, although often repeated, should never be considered. If the existing Administration of Palestine were as pro-Zionist and as prejudicial to Arab interests as is sometimes represented, there would be the strongest possible argument against the immediate handing-over of the country to the Arabs, in the certainty that in their present frame of mind the latter would make short shrift of the people whom, according to the same authority, Great Britain had proclaimed her special friends. Such a betrayal would be too contemptible to be considered for a moment.

Great Britain's Position.

The truth about Palestine is that its present Administration, without being ideal, is a perfectly creditable one to Great Britain. It does not fulfil the aspirations of those who voice Arab discontent, for the simple reason that the running of it is not in their hands. In support of their agitation there is a good deal that has happened since 1918 on which they can fasten, but the Arabs have never suggested that either in the theory or in the practice of government they could show any improvement on British accomplishments. It is legitimate, therefore, for the British critics of the Government to say that Palestine is Arab, and consequently must be governed by Arabs; but, if they do hold this opinion, they must candidly admit that they have no interest in good government and are even mild supporters of misgovernment. Those, on the other hand, who hold that a longer spell of good government is in the real interests of the Arabs have a strong case. Only ignorance of the actual conditions would dispute the obvious fact that the Palestine Government—to the credit of Sir Herbert Samuel, be it said—has quietly but decisively rectified the very natural mistake made in the earliest days of foreshortening the Palestine picture with the Jews in the front. Now that the Holy Land has come under British care it is too sacred a trust to hand lightly back to maladministration as bad as that of Turkey's. We cannot hold on to it for ever, but it is at least worth while seeing whether the inhabitants cannot benefit from a brief experience of honest and efficient administration, with a view to copying it themselves. Those who would promote the true interests of the Arabs would be well advised to urge them to stop their agitation and to make the most of their opportunities for qualifying as the administrators of their own land.

The Attempt on M. Pashitch.

To a long and eventful life M. Pashitch, Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, has added, in the evening of his days, a happy escape from an assassin's hand. On June 27 a youth, who would not seem to be conspicuous for his mental balance, fired four shots at M. Pashitch as he was leaving the Skupshtina, in Belgrade. The Prime Minister was only slightly injured in the hand by broken glass, and his assailant was arrested. No political significance, it is said, attaches to the crime, although, as is usual in such circumstances, the culprit seeks to invest his act with a halo. The attempt, however, calls attention to the stormy conditions that still prevail in the Balkans, where a politician's life resembles the career of a soldier of fortune winning his way at the expense of others, rather than seeking to endear himself to his fellow-countrymen by disinterested service rendered to the State.

The Patriarch Meletios IV.

Abhorrence of anything in the nature of religious persecution is so deep-seated in the British character that sympathy would instinctively be meted out to an Œcumenical Patriarch in Constantinople, who had been the victim of personal assault, as was the Patriarch Meletios the other day at the instigation, if not at the hands, of the Turks. But it is difficult to fit this particular occupant of the Patriarchal throne in the rôle of an early Christian martyr suffering for the Faith. His appointment a few years ago was connected with the bitterest phase of Greek political enmities; and his championship of the Orthodox Church has, rightly or wrongly, been associated in the public mind less with prayer and Christian precept than with carnal weapons of the most modern type. Just as the Archbishop Kyrillos, of Cyprus, is identified far more prominently with political propaganda in that island than with the spiritual care of his flock, so the Patriarch Meletios in Turkish eyes became the personification of Greek designs upon Turkey's territorial integrity. Most probably he does not bear the sole responsibility for Turkish hostility to the Patriarchate. But, most unfortunately for the Greeks, his peculiar interpretation of the duties of his sacred office have coincided with the rise of Turkish nationalism, with unhappy results for the Patriarchate. The best that could happen for the peace and prosperity of both Greece and Turkey is that the two countries should find it possible to live on good terms with one another, and to this end it would be well if the successor of Meletios IV. in the Patriarchate could inaugurate an era when the hierarchy of the Greek Church would be conspicuous for its spiritual attainments rather than for its political activities.

The Indian Army Reductions.

Last week the House of Lords discussed the reductions which have been proposed in the strength of the Army in India, but nothing new was said, and the debate was remarkable chiefly for the faithfulness with which well-known performers adhered to their familiar rôles. Lord Midleton and Lord Sydenham insisted on the danger of the internal situation as it appears to their eyes; Lord Inchcape pleaded that the "men on the spot," who have accepted his proposals, should not be interfered with from above, and Lord Haldane urged that the matter was one for experts, a contention, by the way, which Indian politicians are apt to ignore as confidently as their English brethren. To everyone Lord Peel replied that the whole question was before the Government, so that no announcement regarding it was possible, but he evidently agreed with part at least of what had been said by each speaker, and we take it that such an attitude is substantially correct. The elements of the problem are, in fact, not susceptible of precise measurement: the importance of each of them is likely to be exaggerated by individuals: and the statesmen have to strike a rough balance as best they may.

The Tata Industrial Bank.

The news that the directors of the Tata Industrial Bank propose to merge it in another institution has an interest outside purely financial circles, for it marks the failure of a great idea. The Bank was meant to facilitate the development of industries by Indians on the lines which proved so successful in Germany, and it began business with high hopes and under the guidance of some of the best financial talent in the country. The conditions, however, proved to be unfavourable; a few months ago it was decided not to take new industrial business, and if the present proposals are accepted by the shareholders, their capital will, in future, be devoted to the ordinary banking business of loans for short periods. We

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gather that some other institutions also have found that the financing of new industries is not good business in the conditions which now prevail in India, and men of enterprise are thus again left to rely on their own resources for raising the capital they require, a decided set-back for a country where capital is still shy.

Things and the Man.

The causes of the set-back are obvious enough to students familiar with recent economic literature. Industrial progress has always depended less on the material resources than on the human faculties which were available, and in India it is the men who must still be sought. Materials are abundant, power is available, and markets are at hand. Indian public men have urged that only capital was required to turn these resources to account, but now the offer of capital has failed, and it is to be hoped that they will profit by experience and realise that things are still waiting for men equipped with the needed qualities and aptitudes. Such men exist even now, but they are, as a rule, immersed in law, politics, or administration, and while they may talk eloquently about industrial development, they are not in a position to help it on. One must look to the rising generation for the men who will do the real work, and, as things stand in India, one must look mainly to the Universities to furnish the inspiration which is required.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Wimbledon.

It seems that the lawn tennis championships at Wimbledon are attracting more enormous crowds than ever. Whether this increased interest in lawn tennis is a fine thing I leave for the old and the young to fight out, though no sensible man can help deploring the contemporaneous decline in the popularity of cricket, especially of village cricket; but it is quite certain that for the most part this interest in tennis is a genuine and earnest affair. Of course, one can still meet the people who know to a detail what apparel Mlle. Lenglen and Miss McKane choose to don, and have failed to observe how Mr. Johnston drives and Mr. Richards volleys; but, generally speaking, the crowds at Wimbledon have this year been more intelligent than usual. At the moment it looks as though both the singles championships will remain outside this country—with Mlle. Lenglen and Mr. Johnston—though we are now quite hardened to these things.

The Labour Conference.

The Labour Party drew the limelight on itself during the past week—first, by getting four of its members in the House suspended for childish conduct, and next, much more dully, by holding a conference in London. They are vague and emotional affairs, these Labour conferences; but presumably they do the delegates good, and, in any case, they provide the hard-up Press with useful copy, which can justify its inclusion of dreary harangues by saying that they now represent the views of the official Opposition. This year the proceedings were presided over by Mr. Sidney Webb—a guarantee of unrelieved and unrelievable gloom and of a series of lofty and inapplicable enunciations. We had the expected gush about the brotherhood of all men—the Labour Party must sentimentalise over something, and there is nothing much else at the moment to bring tears and chokes—condemnation of French conduct in the Ruhr, the conversion of the League of Nations into a world-wide organisation, and so *ad infinitum*. In this there is nothing except to remark that it includes all official Liberal principles of foreign policy, and so makes this partlet quite dispensable in that department, at any rate. But in home affairs the Labour Party has at last come out as definitely Socialist. That perhaps is not very definite, seeing that to dub anyone as a Socialist has changed from being a reproach into a praise, and lastly into a mere cynical expression of pitying contempt. It declares outright for a capital levy, but possibly because it sees the present impracticability of it. The Labour Party, in short, is still miles away from reality; it may contain more honest men than other parties can boast of, but the stupidity of it all is apparently incurable.

The British Air Force.

An admirable example of this stupidity of the Labour Party is to be found in their unanimous decision to offer "every resistance" to the proposed increase in the British Air Force. In the House the other day the Prime Minister laid it down that our home air fleet must be adequate to defend these islands from any force within striking distance; the air fleet is, therefore, to be doubled. Now, upon such a sensible and plain declaration the soulful Labour Party can find nothing more fantastic to say than that all air armaments must be abolished by means of an international conference. Presumably, if such a conference failed, the Labour Party would abolish the British Air Force alone—but I doubt very much whether their common sense would not then overcome their love of theory and high-sounding phrase. In point of fact, Mr. Baldwin did suggest that the best way to avoid a race of air armaments was by means of an international conference, thus completely cutting the ground from under Labour's feet.

The people of this country are very proud of their Air Force, as was proved by the enormous interest taken in the Air Pageant at Hendon on Saturday, and were never likely to allow any potential enemy to become indisputably top-dog. But, in case we are not prepared to go on constructing new machines and training men as rapidly as our super-egoists would like, there is always the possibility of an Anglo-French pact of aerial defence to fall back upon. Such a pact seems the obvious thing to bring about; but perhaps we are at present in too independent a mood for it.

The Outbreak of Smallpox.

Considerable interest has been taken in the outbreak in the Midlands and the North of England

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of a disease which is variously called smallpox and chicken-pox. The more timid view, which coincides with the official view, as expressed in the House of Commons by Mr. Neville Chamberlain, Minister of Health, is that it is smallpox, and that there is serious danger of its spreading and of menacing the country. To this the town of Gloucester replies "Nonsense. It is chicken-pox. All this Press scare of smallpox is injuring our trade and keeping visitors away." Really Gloucester is very angry at the imputation. Not only has it made a hero of a local doctor who opposes vaccination tooth and nail, but it insults and endeavours to keep away from the city those who disagree with him. All this would be very entertaining if it did not contain an ugly element. Naturally, all that we at a safe distance can say is that discretion ought to override selfish pique, and that vaccination is a measure of normal prudence. But the smallpox microbe may have entirely changed in character, and the old vaccination may, therefore, be of no use. In any case, you cannot disturb the independence of these provincial towns; and as to the intensity of the feeling of many people against vaccination, well, anyone who was in the Army during the War can vouch to that. Call it fanaticism or ignorance or what you will; but not all the statistics in the world will overcome it. It is true that while twenty years ago 75 per cent. of the children born in this country were vaccinated and smallpox was practically extinct, to-day only 38 per cent. are vaccinated, and even in this year, so far, 955 cases have been reported; but even apparently irrefutable evidence will not subdue the prejudice against vaccination.

A Railway Crisis.

Perhaps it is only fancy, but it seems that the railway crisis, without fear of which no modern holiday is complete, has come rather later than usual this year. It is foolish, one knows, to talk lightly of so serious a subject, but it is with such dreadful monotony that Mr. J. H. Thomas discovers to the public the annual infamies of the companies' intentions. The companies have given notice of fresh proposals for the reduction in the wages of the "conciliation grades," and the publication of this intention, on the eve of the annual conference of the National Union of Railwaymen, has been quite sufficient to flutter the dovecotes of the public. But tempers are not now so fierce as they were a few years ago, and there is a reasonable probability of a settlement by arbitration. But the negotiators of it, at any rate on the employers' side, will have to be a little more sensible than were the Government during the last railway strike, when, according to Mr. Thomas, an offer was made by the companies that, no matter what the cost of living might be, wages should be fixed at 100 per cent. above pre-War standard. If such folly were the guarantee of future peace in the railway world, one can only be thankful that we have this scare of a strike but once in the year.

The Royal Marines.

One of the saddest sights which the 1914-1918 man has had to witness is the enforced disappearance of the unit with which he served in the War. *Esprit de corps* dies very hard, and to see one's old unit disappear, or be merged in another, or change completely its *raison d'être*, has gone very much against the grain. Now even the Royal Marine Artillery and the Royal Marine Light Infantry have come to it. According to a Fleet Order issued the other day, they are to be amalgamated, and are to be known in future as the Royal Marines.

It is stated that the change will be more one of sentiment than of service, but everyone will regret that the "Blue Marine" and the "Red Marine" are not each to continue his separate existence. Apparently the Navy thought that an infantry force would be more useful to them than a force with a high standard of land artillery. Alter Ego.

WEDDING.

Mr. Ronald Storrs and Mrs. Clowes.

The marriage took place on July 2, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, of Mr. Ronald Storrs, C.M.G., C.B.E., Governor of Jerusalem, son of the Dean of Rochester and the late Hon. Mrs. Storrs, and Mrs. Louisa Lucy Clowes, widow of Lieutenant-Colonel H. Clowes (late 1st Life Guards) and daughter of the late Rear-Admiral the Hon. Algernon Littleton and of Lady Margaret Littleton, sister of the late Earl of Kilmorey.

Mrs. Clowes was given away by her uncle, the Hon. Henry Littleton. The Dean of Rochester officiated, assisted by the Rev. Christopher Storrs and the Rev. Austin Thompson. Mr. Edward Marsh, C.B., was best man. No invitations were issued, and there was no reception owing to the deep mourning in the bridegroom's family. Among the relatives and friends present at the church were:—

Lady Margaret Littleton, Miss Hyacinth and Miss Eleanor Littleton, Lord and Lady Brownlow, Miss Monica and Miss Petronella Storrs, Miss Haynes Storrs, Miss Mary, Miss Lucy, and Miss Daisy Clowes (daughters of the bride), Mr. L. A. and Mr. W. Clowes (sons of the bride), the Earl and Countess of Darnley, the Hon. Peregrine Cust, the Hon. Violet Cust, Mrs. Francis Storrs, the Duchess of Rutland, the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Sir Herbert Samuel and Lady Samuel, Lady Dixon-Hartland, Clara Lady Vincent, Sir Herbert and Lady Cohen, Lady Robson, Lady Walker, Lady (Mark) Sykes, Lady Jephson, Lady (George) Lewis, Lady (Henry) Pelly, Lady Carden, the Hon. Albert Napier, Sir Charles Walston, the Hon. Mrs. Clowes, Major and Mrs. Ernest Clowes, Miss A. Clowes, Captain and Mrs. Littleton, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cust, Mrs. Henry Cust, Mr. Lionel Cust, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Ralph Strauss, Mr. William Clowes, the Rev. Mordaunt Bisset, Dr. W. H. Kean, Mrs. Trollope, Miss Constance Gladstone, Colonel and Mrs. Solomon, Colonel and Mrs. Bramley, Mr. R. Littleton, Mrs. Needham, Mrs. John Romney, Mrs. Carleton, Mr. S. Gaselee, Mrs. Ormonde, Mrs. Grimstone, Miss Levett, Mrs. Winnington-Ingram, Mrs. Arthur Franklin, Mrs. Norman Bentwich, Mrs. Fitzherbert Wright, Mrs. Leverton Harris, Mr. Broadbent Bury, Mrs. Brightman, Mr. Joshua Bury, Mrs. Wilford Lloyd, Mrs. Donaldson Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Buxton, Mrs. Sylvester Samuel, Mr. and Mrs. Vansittart, Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Davies, and Mrs. Henry Leaf.

Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Storrs left by car for Hinchingbrooke, Huntingdon (lent by the Earl and Countess of Sandwich), and to-morrow they will proceed to Jerusalem by way of Paris and Venice.

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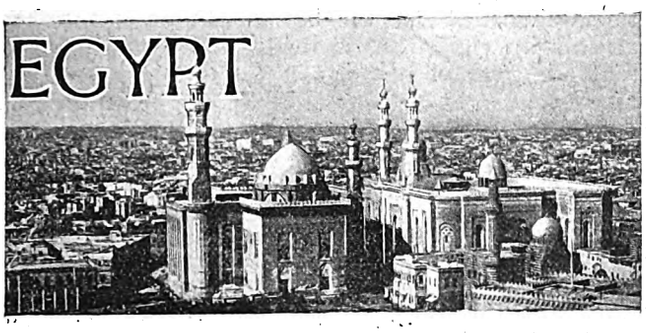

Cairo, June 23.

Another Air Disaster.

Cairo was shocked on Monday by news of yet another fatal aeroplane accident to add to the already long list of such occurrences. It is only a few weeks ago that two airmen were killed and two others seriously injured through their machine getting out of control and crashing on the Mokattam Hills. Monday's smash was still more costly in human life. A Vickers-Vimy machine, which had been undergoing repairs, had left the ground and had risen no higher than about 300 feet, when it was seen to get out of control. The aeroplane crashed, and immediately burst into flames. The four occupants were: Flying Officer P. W. Lingwood, who was piloting the machine; Flight-Lieutenant N. B. Ward, and Aircraftsmen Jarvis and Skuse. By the time the fire could be mastered the bodies of all four of these unfortunate men had been incinerated. Flying Officer Lingwood was married, and his wife and child are in Egypt; the others were unmarried. All the victims were twenty-seven years of age. The funeral took place at the British Cemetery, Old Cairo, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Court at Alexandria.

With the transfer of the Court and the Residency to Alexandria, which has been effected this week, Cairo is officially abandoned to its summer torpor. This year King Fuad will spend the whole of the summer at Montaza Palace, only going into town, to Ras el Tin Palace, when formal business requires. Those who know Montaza are not surprised by His Majesty's decision to stay there. During the War Montaza Palace was used as a military hospital, and fortunate indeed were the men who were sent there for treatment. It was only in the spring of last year that the building was again fitted out for its normal rôle of royal residence. The grounds are large and delightful, full of shady walks, and running right down to the seashore. For the royal children, Crown Prince Farouk and his sister, Princess Fewkia, Montaza is ideal.

The Residency's Quarters.

The Residency has gone into new quarters this year. For some years past the greatly increased size of the Chancery staff, as compared with pre-War days, has made the Agency building at Alexandria, which was constructed by Lord Cromer, inadequate. It has, therefore, been necessary to seek other accommodation, and the house of Zervudachi Bey has been rented each summer. This is a charming residence, with a garden rivalling that of the Residency at Kasr el Doubara, but it is none too large, and is situated at Glymenopoulo, far out in the suburb of Ramleh. Also the rent has been very high. During the past winter funds have been allocated for building a Chancery section on to the old Agency. The work was completed a few weeks back, and it is into the new building that the Residency staff moved this week. Located at Mustapha Pasha, the High Commissioner's summer home is certainly more conveniently situated than the Zervudachi house, though it is rather a long way from the sea. The change should prove a great economy, for I am told that the cost of the new Chancery will be recovered in two years' saving of the rent paid for the Zervudachi mansion.

The Indemnity Act.

Daily the Arabic newspapers announce that "the Indemnity Act will be promulgated to-morrow or the day after," and, with equal regularity, to-morrow never comes. But at last it seems that the prophets are to be justified. The draft Act has been agreed upon between the British and Egyptian Governments, and now awaits only the completion and enactment of a number of other laws which will come into force as soon as martial law is removed. One of the most important of these new legislative measures is an Egyptian code of martial law, together with the regulations governing its employment. It is reported that the terms of the new statute are settled, and that it will probably be issued by royal decree during the coming week. After that the Indemnity Act will not be long delayed, and then, with the abolition of the existing martial law régime, Egypt will be fairly launched along the highway of independence. It will be interesting to see whether the Prime Minister, having accomplished so much in so short a time, will consider his task at an end, or will remain at his post right up to the elections. Since he assumed office Yehia Pasha Ibrahim has maintained a Sphinx-like silence, having made no political speeches, issued practically no *communiqués* or statements, and given purely general replies to the questions of interviewers. This silence at first antagonised a section of the Arabic Press, but now that the Ministry has "delivered the goods" in so striking a fashion there is little real opposition to the Government. The recently issued law for the regulation of public gatherings has been much criticised, and fears are expressed regarding new "shackles" with which the Act of Indemnity may burden the country; but, generally speaking, the present Government has met with a remarkable measure of support from all sections of the local Press.

It is understood that the Premier intends, as soon as the Indemnity Act is promulgated and martial law removed, to break his silence and to seek an early opportunity of giving the country a *compte-rendu* of what has been done and what still remains to do. This speech will doubtless be

*** Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.**

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delivered at a banquet held to celebrate the passing of martial law.

The Position of Foreign Officials.

It is satisfactory to learn that there are good prospects of a definite scheme being agreed upon as to the position of foreign officials in the Government service. In my letter of June 2 I referred to the failure of the Government last year to come to a satisfactory arrangement which would have enabled them to dispense with those foreign officials whom they did not wish to retain, on payment of good compensation, and at the same time to make terms with those whose services are still indispensable. Fear of public opposition has been the motive underlying the failure to settle this compensation question. Recently the Egyptian Government asked for an "armistice," their request being that no more foreign officials should go until a cut-and-dried scheme had been agreed upon. Realising, no doubt, that to agree to this proposal would serve only further to delay any settlement, the Residency declined. If the projected agreement is reached, Government and foreign officials alike will at last know where they stand, and will be able to make their plans for the future accordingly.

The Assouan Dam Tablet.

The removal at the end of last March from Assouan Dam of the tablet erected to commemorate the part played in the building of the dam by engineers and workmen of various nationalities aroused much comment at the time. The inscription was as follows:—"This dam was designed and built by British engineers. Egyptians, assisted by Greeks, excavated to the rock foundations and built the rubble masonry. Skilled Italian workmen dressed the granite ashlar." This wording was considered offensive to Egyptian pride, and the tablet was removed in circumstances which suggested a desire for secrecy. The matter was taken up strongly by the British Union in Egypt, and after much correspondence, the Council of the Union has now been informed by the Residency that a new tablet is to be erected. This is to be a much larger affair than its predecessor, and the inscription, besides naming the ex-Khedive, the three British Consuls-General, and the two Ministers of Public Works who held office during the building of the dam also enumerates the leading engineers and contractors who had a share in the work. A modified form of the original inscription will follow the list of names, the new reading being as follows:—"The labour employed was Egyptian and Greek. Skilled Italian workmen dressed and built the granite ashlar."

The new tablet is undoubtedly a great improvement on the old, and of far more value as an historical record. At the same time the circumstances in which the removal was effected suggest that had it not been for the publicity given to the removal and the action taken by the British Union, the present satisfactory termination to the incident might not have been reached.

The Conspiracy Trial.

The conspiracy trial drags on. Recent sessions have served to postpone rather than to bring nearer the conclusion. Almost every witness who has been called during the last few days has given evidence which will involve hearing two or three other witnesses in corroboration or refutation. By the third week in July we may see the end of the trial, in which public interest has now almost completely evaporated.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, June 26.

The Coup and Afterwards.

The first stage of the *coup* may now be said to be over. All is quiet in the provinces, and the new Government is gradually reorganising the administrative services. In foreign affairs matters are not going so smoothly. The Serbians have still two to three divisions concentrated along the Bulgarian frontier. This concentration is rendering official circles in Sofia somewhat uneasy. M. Nintchitch's speech in the Skupshtina regarding Serbo-Bulgarian relations was of a reassuring character, and it was thought that the Serbian troops would return to their ordinary stations. No pronouncement has been made as to why the troops remain concentrated. Their presence is a distinct danger to friendly relations, because, as all the world knows, frontiers are places where a mere incident may lead to grave trouble. In this particular case the situation is aggravated by the attitude which M. Raiko Daskaloff, lately Bulgarian Minister in Prague, has taken up. M. Daskaloff is uttering dire threats against the new Bulgarian Government, and it is to be feared that some of these threats are being taken too seriously. The enemies of Bulgaria—and they are numerous—pretend that Serbia must hold in readiness large military forces in order to prevent internal Bulgarian troubles spreading to other Balkan countries. These pretensions are, for the moment at any rate, quite groundless, as besides the absence of internal troubles, the new Government is far too occupied with its own affairs to dream of an aggressive foreign policy.

The Macedonians.

No one has come more into the limelight during recent events than the Macedonian Autonomists. Their leader, M. Todor Alexandroff, is alternately reported as driving about Sofia in a motor-car, or organising a huge Macedonian revolt which will change the map of South-Western Europe. His supporters are said to have entered Bulgaria in their thousands, and the number of Macedonians who chased and ultimately killed Stambolisky is fabulous. One story has gone the rounds that just outside Sofia is a battalion of troops exclusively composed of Macedonian *komitajis!*

In spite of this *badinage*, there is not a shadow of doubt that the Macedonians look on recent happenings with great satisfaction, and certain

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among them desire to profit thereby. Stambolisky's death brought to an end a Government which had been quite out of sympathy with the Macedonians. The latter realise that they are in a strong position, but do not perhaps realise the responsibility of their position. M. Zankoff's Government will have to see that it does not fall into the old error of allowing the Macedonians to control Bulgaria's foreign policy. If they make this mistake, Serbia will always be a potential enemy, and Bulgaria's international position will be gravely jeopardised. The new Government has a very difficult task before it, as it has to follow a policy in which Macedonian ambitions and Serbian mistrust will not harm Bulgaria.

The Communists' Attitude.

In the midst of all that has happened, the Communist Party has been more or less forgotten. It does not form part of the new Government, but it has not shown any active resistance to the *coup*. The party is, however, watching events very attentively, and will, in all probability, shortly announce the policy it intends to follow. Circumstances would seem to point to a combination of extreme Agrarianism with Communism. The Communists cannot be content with the change in régime, as it most certainly represents a move towards the "Right." They were, it is true, menaced by a law which Stambolisky was to have had voted by the present Sobranye. In fact, on the face of things, all parties are against them. Still, their ideas are more closely allied to those of the Agrarians than to those of the Bourgeois.

The Government has announced that there will be no interference with the Communists provided that they conduct themselves according to the laws of the country. Whether there will be an increase in Communism as the result of the recent change in Government it is hard to say, but a strong current of opinion holds that the greatest opposition which M. Zankoff may have to face is a Communist-Extreme Agrarian bloc.

A Suggested Bourgeois Fusion.

The Bourgeois Parties in Bulgaria number five —namely, the Democrats, Narodniaks, Radicals, Liberals, and Socialists. In general there is very little between the policies of all five parties. For this reason, and also because it is now realised somewhat tardily that "Union means strength" (the words engraved on the front of the Sobranye), there is talk of a fusion.

The Democrats, Narodniaks, and Radicals, who at present form a *bloc*, were the first to take the initiative. Their idea is to form one party, which it is hoped the Liberals and the Socialists will join. Public opinion is almost unanimous in welcoming the proposed fusion. Five parties are four too many, and individually can achieve nothing. There are, unfortunately, several obstacles to the fusion, of which the principal are the natural reluctance of the respective parties to lose their identities, and, more important still, the personal ambitions of some of the members of each party. If these two obstacles can be overcome, there is nothing to prevent a slow but gradual fusion, and it will certainly be in the interests of the parties concerned and of Bulgaria as a country if it takes place.

The Arrested Ministers.

Members of no less than five former Cabinets are at present in prison—those of MM. Radoslavoff, Stambolisky, Gueshoff, Daneff, and Malinoff. It is to the three last-named, who are at Shumen, that interest mainly attaches. When M. Zankoff's Government assumed power it announced that the Shumen Ministers were liberated. It has since come to light that they are still under arrest. Meanwhile several of the Ministers who formed part of the arrested Cabinets, but who escaped abroad, have returned and are at liberty. Such an anomaly has called forth strong protests from those interested. The Government's policy in this matter is hard to follow. It is said that it does not wish to release the Ministers, as this would be a breach of the Constitution. On the other hand, it is said that the Liberal element in the Cabinet, which is, curiously enough, represented by M. Smiloff, Minister of Justice, insists on the liberation of the Radoslavoff Ministers as well as those from Shumen. Altogether the situation is very complicated, and if it is allowed to continue may easily become a source of considerable embarrassment to M. Zankoff's administration.

General News.

The British Minister, Mr. W. A. F. Erskine, is going to England on long leave at the end of June. During his absence Mr. Barber will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

The Bulgarian Journalists' Association entertained to dinner on June 22 the foreign newspaper correspondents in Sofia.

More rain is reported to have fallen during June, 1923, than in any previous June.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, June 15.

The Resignation of the Arab Nominees.

There is no disguising the surprise felt here at the unanimous resignation of the ten Arab nominees to the reconstructed Palestinian Advisory Council. The uncertainty which prevailed up till last Tuesday, and the succession of contradictory announcements, seemed to argue that the "moderates" among the ten refused to be stampeded into resignation at the dictation of the political extremists. The nominees had been carefully and cleverly chosen by the local Government, and included a representative from each of the main families, and among them such a well-known moderate and sane man of the world as Ragheb Bey en-Nashashibi, a capable business man, friendly alike to British government and to the prospects of Jewish assistance in Palestine. There were others also who had not previously mixed themselves up in the welter of Palestinian politics. But finally seven of the ten signed a common letter of "resignation," and the three others telegraphed their concurrence with the majority.

Primarily this last development is the first real proof of Arab solidarity. So far it has always been

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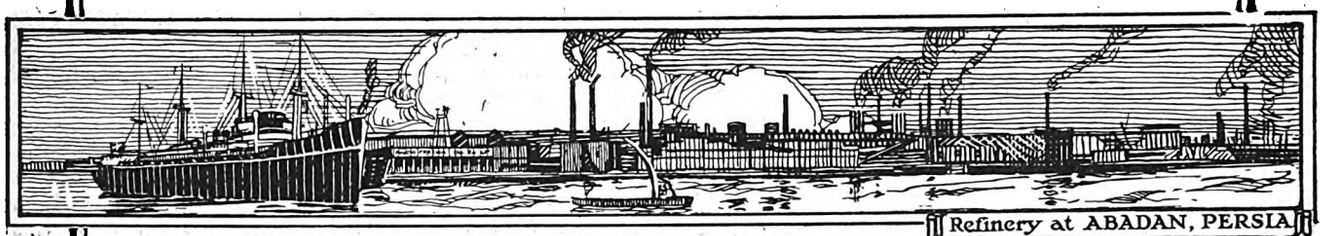

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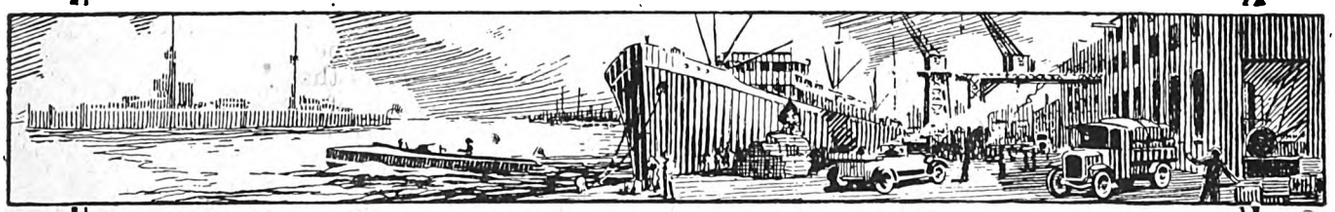

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possible to say that what opposition there has been to Government proposals has come from just an extremist section, and that there was a body of Arab moderates who concurred with British policy. Now the unorganised moderates have either agreed with, or allowed themselves to be overpersuaded by the organised extreme faction. It is not easy to say what exactly has effected this consolidation of parties (over and above the outstanding grievance against the Mandate policy of a Jewish National Home—always, for purposes of argument, envisaged by the Arabs according to its maximum interpretation). There is unquestionably a feeling that the British Government has been playing an insincere game—giving with one hand and taking away with the other—a double policy of promises of self-government in things immaterial and of dictation of terms in anything that matters. But it is the lesser things which tend to be most irritating, and the fact that the Arab members of the Council were nominated, while the two Jews were formally elected, has—most unreasonably, of course, since the Arabs refused to elect when asked to—provided the Arabs with a grievance; they felt that as mere nominees they could never pretend, to the same extent as the popularly elected Jews, to voice the wants and feelings of their people.

What the next move is to be is impossible to forecast. The line of least resistance would seem to be to revive the old Advisory Council unchanged; but it is most improbable now that any of the Arab notables will dare to sit on it. There is to be a "Sixth Arab Congress" at Jaffa to-morrow. It is to be held behind closed doors "owing to the delicate nature of the agenda"—the Anglo-Arab Treaty, the attitude to the Advisory Council, and the question of a general Arab levy for raising funds for Arab Nationalist propaganda.

The two Jewish members elected to the Advisory Council are Mr. H. M. Kalvarisky and Mr. David Yellin. The former is an old colonist of Rosh Pinnah (North Galilee), who has in the last two years played an active part in devising means for promoting an Arab-Jewish entente; and the latter comes of a family settled in Palestine for many generations, well known to the Arabs, a learned Arabist, and respected in all quarters. The Jewish "secondary voters" of the "Left" refrained from electing.

The High Commissioner's Northern Tour.

During the past week the High Commissioner has been making a tour in the North, chiefly to visit the revised northern frontier. Since the departure of General Gouraud the difficulties about the inclusion in Palestine of certain territory in the neighbourhood of Lake Huleh, comprising twenty-six villages and settlements, have been surmounted. Certain minor legal technicalities have not yet been completed, and Sir Herbert Samuel could not formally take over the district in question on behalf of the British Mandatory. But since he is to return to England on leave in a week's time he took the opportunity of an unofficial tour of inspection of the new frontier, in the company of the French *liaison* officer and the French Governor of Sidon. The chief points visited in the new area were Metullah, the most northerly Jewish settlement, and Banias, the Biblical Dan. Immense enthusiasm was shown by the Jewish colonists. It was on Sunday night, after this visit to Metullah, that the attack was made on the small party of British gendarmerie. It was not an attack on the High Commissioner himself, but on a portion of his escort returning to Safed. Ten of these, travelling in two cars, were stopped by a party of twenty to thirty armed brigands near Yesod ha-Maaleh, another Jewish settlement, south-west of Lake Huleh. The attack had no political motive, and appears to have been nothing more than an ordinary "hold-up," not uncommon in Palestine, for the sole object of loot. The brigands soon discovered the nature of their "haul," fired a single volley, and promptly disappeared. Two of the gendarmerie were killed outright, and two were severely wounded—one of whom died shortly afterwards. The three victims were buried at Nazareth the following Tuesday.

A story was current in Jerusalem during the next few days to the effect that the attack was engineered by French sources as a reprisal for the similar attack some time back on General Gouraud, when the culprits escaped to Transjordania, and the British authorities were openly blamed for not taking the necessary measures to hand them back to the French. But this was soon shown to be groundless. Last Tuesday the French succeeded in capturing the entire band, with one exception. They are believed to have been a famous band of Druze outlaws long wanted by the Syrian authorities.

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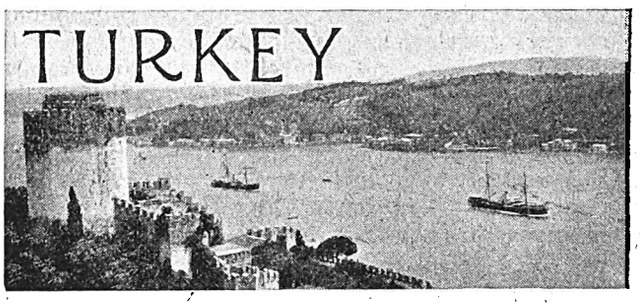

Constantinople, June 26.

The Elections.

Last Friday we reached one of the culminating points in the election campaign in Constantinople, when the urns containing all the voting papers of the second degree electors of Pera were transferred in gaily decorated carriages accompanied by unending streams of cabs and motor-cars to the Lycie Galata Serai, and there handed over to the Election Commission. The outward manifestations of interest in the proceedings were somewhat overwhelming, and it is estimated that altogether some 30,000 or 40,000 people took part, as spectators or participants, in the various processions. The congestion at the rallying point on Taxim Parade Ground was appalling, and one wondered whether the various processions would ever get sorted out; however, all seems to have gone off very successfully, and it must be admitted that for an election crowd they were the most orderly, well-behaved lot we have ever seen.

The counting of the votes went on throughout Friday evening, and the result was announced on Saturday. It appears that the 1,275 elected members of the College of Voters all belong to the Government (Defence of Rights) Party, and that 95 per cent. of the population of Pera recorded their votes. The College of Voters will meet at 8 a.m. next Thursday in the Lecture Hall of Stamboul

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University to carry out the final election of the candidates.

Reports received from other parts of Turkey show that everywhere the results of elections give the same overwhelming preponderance to the Government Party, and it looks as though, in the new Assembly, there will be no opposition at all. Appearances are, however, deceptive. We have been treated lately to an orgy of oratory and congratulatory telegrams, which appear to demonstrate the absolute political unity of all classes and races in Turkey. The Greek communities in Constantinople have been wiring fulsome messages to Mustapha Kemal. The Armenian authorities have been buttering their Turkish lords and masters, and so forth. The opposition elements among the Turks themselves have been dumb, because the moment for the bold expression of "unorthodox" opinions is not propitious. Those touching manifestations of national unity must not be taken at their face value.

The "Free" Vote.

It is common knowledge that in many countries in Eastern Europe, where the educational standard of the electorate is much higher than it is in Turkey, elections are subject to arrangement, and we should be guilty of childish credulity if we supposed that under present conditions in Turkey a certain amount of undue influence were not exercised. Undue pressure is unquestionably at work everywhere, and, however deplorable this may seem from the point of view of the sanctity of democratic institutions, we feel almost inclined to consider it justified, since, owing to the elementary party organisation in a country like Turkey, the party which has succeeded in evolving any organised system for getting the electors' votes, deserves to get them.

Mistrust of Constantinople.

Whether the Government will succeed in keeping its team together, now that it has done its work so well that it has virtually deprived itself of the necessary cement provided by an opposition element of reasonable strength, remains to be seen. We are very sceptical about it, and it seems to us a fact of bad augury that the Angora powers-that-be have thought it necessary to restrict the representation of Constantinople to fifteen Deputies—i.e., 5 per cent. of the total Chamber, whereas the population of the town represents at least 10 per cent. of the whole population of New Turkey.

The Return from Angora.

The negotiations at Angora between the Government and the representatives of the Foreign Companies have reached a definite stage, in that practically all the delegates have returned. Some agreements have certainly been reached, but we believe that we are right in stating that, with the exception of the Constantinople Telephone Company, all the British companies have found the Government's terms impossible as a basis for future working. This situation, taken in conjunction with the deadlock on this and the Debt question at Lausanne, is a serious one for the Turks themselves, for the good reason that, even if they fight about it—and it is pretty certain that they will not, because their Army is not in a fit state to fight anybody—they will not alter their financial relations with the rest of the world, except for the worst. They still persist, however, in their stupid provocation of the foreign investor; they are still obstructive on the Bank of Athens question; they have actually confused a legal document, which they presented to the National Bank of Turkey, to prove the legality of their contention that the various claims in the contract concerning the Municipal Loan of 1909, which expressly stipulates payment in gold, really mean payment in paper; they have succeeded in putting up the backs of the British, French, Dutch, Swiss and other investors in Ottoman external loans. Do they really think that any further attempt to raise money in London or Paris would have the slightest chance of success? No; financially, they risk dropping to the level of Russia or some of the smaller South and Central American Republics.

Turkish Financial Ideas.

We strongly suspect that in this *intransigeance* on financial questions they have been powerfully influenced by the virus injected into their body politic by their ex-friends, the Russians. The repudiation of responsibility for the obligations contracted by the Imperial Ottoman Government is an attractive idea, and has apparently been on the *tapis* for some time in a veiled form. Traces are also to be found of that pet Muscovite idea, that the wicked people who are creditors of foreign States are a small group of enormously wealthy evil-living plutocrats who grind the faces of the foreign poor. The sooner the Turks disabuse themselves of this notion and get at the truth, namely, that the man to whom he owes money and from whom he hopes to get more, is the moderately shrewd, cautious man in the street in England, France, and elsewhere, who will button up his pocket resolutely if his dividends do not come in regularly, the better for the Turk and the future of "New Turkey."

The ball in aid of the Medical Mission to Indian Women and Children at Rawal Pindi, organised by Mrs. Wellesley Colley and Lady Alice Reyntiens, took place on July 2 at Claridge's Hotel.

M. Naitcho Tzanoff, the founder of the Bulgarian Radical Party, and a noted figure in Bulgarian politics, died last Thursday in Sofia.

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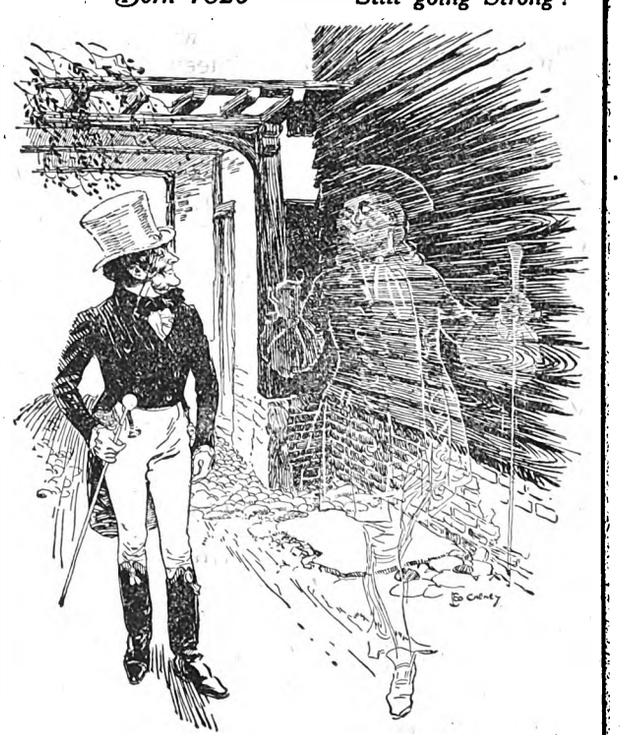

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 5 (New Style).
June 22 (Old Style).
Dulkaada 20, 1341, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 21, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Karageorgevitch has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Oxford.

Madame Davood Khan, the wife of the Persian Minister, arrived in London on June 30 from Persia.

Princess Ileana of Roumania arrived in Athens on June 24, and is staying at the Tatoi Summer Palace.

Sir Herbert Samuel, British High Commissioner in Palestine accompanied by Lady Samuel, arrived in London on June 26.

Sir Gilbert Clayton is acting as High Commissioner for Palestine during the absence from the country of Sir Herbert Samuel.

Mr. H. P. Dodge, American Minister to Yugoslavia, arrived at Plymouth in the George Washington from New York on July 1.

Mrs. Philip Taylor (wife of Mr. P. S. Taylor, of Cairo) gave birth to a daughter on June 29 at 49, Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

The Roumanian Minister left London on July 1 for Geneva to attend the meeting of the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva.

Princess Nicholas of Greece and the Princesses Olga and Elizabeth arrived last week at the Granby Court Hotel, South Kensington.

The Dowager Lady Boyle will give a party on Tuesday, July 10, at 64, Queen's Gate, to meet the leaders of the League of Nations movement.

Prince and Princess Georges Lotfallah have arrived in London from Paris. Prince Habib Lotfallah, brother of Prince Georges, was recently appointed Hejaz Minister in Rome.

Rear-Admiral Aubrey Smith, upon relinquishing his appointment as Head of the British Naval Mission to Greece, had the honour of being received by the King at Buckingham Palace on June 26.

The American Minister to Bulgaria, Mr. Charles S. Wilson, is on his way to Europe in the White Star liner Olympic, from New York, which is due to reach Southampton at the end of the week.

Mme. Slavko-Grouitch, wife of the former Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, has arrived in London from America, and is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Post Wheeler at Rayleigh House, Chelsea Embankment.

Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen gave a reception at the Lyceum Club on June 28, when the guests included: The Persian Minister, the Maharaja of Jhalawar, Sir Bindon and Lady Blood, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Lady Swaythling, Sir Abbas Ali Baig, Lady Tata, and Lady Boyle.

M. Vintilo Bratiano, the Roumanian Minister of Finance, who, during his visit to London, has seen the Prime Minister, Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, and several prominent bankers, left on July 2 for Paris, and expects to be absent from London for about a week.

The Prime Minister's list of honours, conferred on the occasion of the King's Birthday (June 2), the publication of which was delayed, has now been issued. The honour which will be of particular interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST is a Knighthood conferred on Professor William Matthew Flinders Petrie, F.R.S., F.B.A., D.C.L., LL.D., Litt.D., Edwards Professor of Egyptology, University College, London.

The *London Gazette* of June 29 announces that the King has given permission for the wearing of the following decorations and medals awarded by the Allied Powers at various dates to the British Forces for distinguished service rendered during the War of 1914-1919:—

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THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1923.

YUGOSLAVIA'S PROBLEM.

On the following page we publish a letter from a prominent Croat, who challenges the statement of policy made in our issue of May 31 by M. Raditch, the Croat leader. The two documents reflect the rival schools of thought that hold the field in Yugoslavia to-day. Dr. Ravnihar, it is true, is not as extreme a Centralist as are most of the Serbian Radicals. He realises the need for amendments of the Vidovdan Constitution; but he finds it on the whole up-to-date and democratic, and fulfilling the essential requirement of keeping Yugoslavia strong in the political, military, and economic spheres. His summing up of the Centralist creed would probably receive M. Pashitch's full endorsement: "Unfortunately, through no fault of our State," he writes, "conditions are still such that we have to stand on guard, arms in hand, in defence of our dearly won freedom and independence. . . . We cannot atomise our united State, because that would be the end of its political and economic independence." Finding themselves confronted with difficulties of one kind or another on every frontier, it is hardly to be wondered at that the Serbians are impressed by the necessity of maintaining the military strength of Yugoslavia at the standard which only a united and unified country can attain, and they point to the improvement of their relations with Italy as proof of the correctness of this view. At the same time, the Centralists are equally convinced that only close co-operation and co-ordination in the economic sphere can pave the way for the material reconstruction of which the State stands in need, and will avert worse financial difficulties than those which have already been experienced.

Against these arguments M. Raditch has little more to offer than the assertion of the unshakable resolve of Croatia to be "independent" and a denunciation of Serbian militarism and violence. Dr. Ravnihar shrewdly places his finger on the weak spot of the Croat leader's letter in pointing out that the emphasis laid on pacifism and neutrality is directed entirely to foreign audiences, and he accuses him of trying to force his policy on the country by means of foreign backing because he cannot obtain support for it in Yugoslavia. Again, a strictly dispassionate view will probably find in M. Raditch's policy more that is sound or justifiable than his political opponents will allow. The fact that Yugoslavia comprises three separate peoples, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who, while united in race and language, differ in many other respects, and not least of all in their political traditions, is a strong argument for a federal State. In view of the political backwardness of the great mass of the Yugoslav population, it is only natural that the different communities should find their own local problems all-important and all-absorbing, and take comparatively little interest in the affairs of other sections of the composite State. It is not only on the problem of Fiume that the Croats and Slovenes hold that the Belgrade Government is less watchful in regard to their interests than it is in matters which more directly concern the Serbs, as, for instance, the question of a port zone at Salonika. On the other hand, if they stopped to consider how an independent pacifist Croatia would, in all probability, have fared in negotiations with Italy over the Fiume problem, they would have to admit that "militarist" Serbia has been of some use to them. Nevertheless, there can be little doubt that the present condition of the different provinces calls for a generous measure of local self-government and decentralisation of the administrative machinery. The absence of a reasoned programme in M. Raditch's statement of the Croatian point of view lends colour to the charge that personal ambition rather than political conviction is his guiding motive. He has taken advantage of the distrust felt by the Croatian peasant of Serbian economic competition in order to rally Croatia as a whole to his standard; but, being unable to support his separatist slogan by any constructive policy that could withstand criticism in Parliament, he is content with a negative attitude, however prejudicial to Yugoslavia's interests the political deadlock may be.

To the outside world it does not seem as if the two schools of thought in Yugoslavia are divided by a very wide gulf. Only a comparatively small step on the part of each in the required direction would bring the two together. On the one side the military danger is exaggerated, and is capable of being eliminated by a careful foreign policy; at the same time, the multiplicity of purely local interests is an obvious factor in the situation, and in view of the undeveloped condition of the political sense of the Yugoslav race as a whole can be best met by means of local legislative bodies. The recent General Election was decided almost entirely on racial lines, although the Radicals claim for the first time adherents outside Serbia proper; certainly as "Centralists" they could derive little satisfaction from it. To attempt to suppress the autonomist feeling by force is the surest means of courting disaster for Yugoslavia. There is nothing antagonistic in the different local interests; they are capable of being met in whole or in part without prejudice to the united State, and, when once out of the way, will leave the arguments for unity unchallengeable. It is believed that M. Pashitch appreciates these facts, and is prepared to modify his Centralist policy. Unfortunately, he receives no help from M. Raditch, who does not seem to realise that a purely negative policy, which may have served Croatia's ends when she was firmly held in the toils of the Dual Monarchy, is out of place when Croatia is in a position to play her part in the direction of Yugoslav affairs. He must know well that local autonomy is possible without the fetish of republicanism. What he probably does not realise is that many of the points of dispute between Croatia and Serbia that loom large to-day are essentially part of the aftermath of war, and will be more easily eliminated if they are not invested with the importance of fundamental differences. It will, indeed, be a strange irony if the Yugoslavs, who showed such a capacity for sacrifice in the War, are unable to reach the same standard of patriotism in dealing with their peace problems.

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CROATIA AND SERBIA.

A REPLY TO M. RADITCH.*

We have received from Dr. Vladimir Ravnihar the following letter, dated Liubliana, June 17. Dr. Ravnihar is President of the Central Committee of the Yugoslav Sokol Union, and is President of the Liubliana Glasbena Matica (Conservatoire). He is not a member of the Radical Party.

For some time past it has been the policy of M. Stefan Raditch to try to interest foreign public opinion in the idea of his "humanitarian and pacific Croatian Republic." It does not say much for the persuasiveness of any doctrine if its propagator is compelled to turn for help to factors outside those directly concerned—in this case the Croat people and the State of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, established by international Acts and enjoying valid existence. The matter is absolutely our own internal affair, in which—by international right and custom—no external factor can proffer help so long as no international interests are involved. Of this M. Raditch must be fully aware, as he is a man of wide knowledge, who passed through the Ecole des Sciences Politiques in Paris and studied politics at sundry other universities as well. It is a great pity that a man of M. Raditch's accomplishments should not employ the latter for the true advantage of his nation, and that his practical politics should so belie his education. Well equipped as regards theory, he fails to find the moral strength to turn it to use in practical life.

His demagogy is a further outcome of the contradictory nature of his character. Now, demagogy is the natural opposite of all true culture of mind and heart.

Demagogues are the very worst teachers a nation can have, because for their own advantage they flatter its lowest instincts, relying on these for support, and so beguile the people to moral ruin. The true friend of his people uses all his knowledge and culture to fight these instincts, even though this be at times against his own interest. It is for him to give—if need be, to impose—political orientation upon the people, not to accept it himself from an ignorant populace.

The demagogue is in clover just now. Unsettled post-War conditions, an unsatisfactory economical situation, the high cost of living—all facilitate his task. Consequently it would be a mistake to ascribe the outcome of the recent General Election in Croatia (or in Slovenia either, for that matter) to an expression of "the will of the people," as M. Raditch does—against his better knowledge.

The Croat peasant is a good fellow, but politically an illiterate. And it must be accounted a fault of the Croat professional classes (the *intelligenzia*) that they have not troubled to give the populace a political education. Before the Liberation there was no need for it either. At that time there was in Croatia no such thing as universal, equal, and secret suffrage, that essential factor in the political training of a people. Elections were carried out on the Magyar system, and the voters persuaded with wine, gulyash, money, and—at need—with gendarmes. The more ignorant the populace the better for the candidate. Universal, equal, and secret suffrage, the product of modern democratic conceptions, was given to the Croat along with the rest of the State by the much-abused Vidovdan Constitution (as it is called). To speak of any kind of political "will" on the part of the politically ignorant mass of the Croatian people is nonsense. If it succeeded in expressing a "will" at the election, it is quite safe to say that this "will" was suggested by its leaders; and, moreover, by leaders (fateful circumstance!) who were demagogues.

The Croatian peasant is not a Republican by temperament nor by his way of thinking. By all their past and all their traditions the Croats are Monarchists, and have been so ever since the days when they were ruled by native kings. Let me recall the enthusiasm with which they greeted our Queen (the Queen of Yugoslavia) during her recent stay in the Croatian littoral! But if you keep on preaching to that peasantry night and day that a Republic is a kind of State in which there is no need to pay taxes or to serve in the army; that neither police nor officials are required to run it—well, where is the peasant who would not vote for such an earthly paradise? And that is the kind of demagogic agitation which their political leaders made use of, and, first and foremost, M. Raditch himself. If we, therefore, need not marvel at the outcome of the General Election, we need not overestimate it either. Above all, we ought not to take it as the expression of any kind of "will." That "will" was expressed under the pressure of suggestion on the part of those who desire to exploit it for their own selfish ends.

M. Raditch knows very well that, in view of established international relations and in consideration of international right, his propaganda abroad cannot meet with practical success. Therefore he tries through his propaganda to create an international situation which would favour his purpose. That is the true explanation of his theories touching the neutralisation of the east coast of the Adriatic; of his efforts to paint the Serb as a kind of modern Hun, prepared to devastate Northern Italy right down to Milan; of his sally against a Panslav "militarist" State extending from Vladivostok to Split! M. Raditch is speculating upon Rome's "well-grounded alarm" to be his most reliable ally in the realisation of his aims. He would neutralise the east coast of the Adriatic, sacrifice Trieste and Gorizia in order to flatter Imperialist Italy, through whom he would fain strangle "Serbian Imperialism." And in the resultant, tiny, neutral Croatian Republic, under Italian protectorate he—Raditch—would rule as President!

Pray, consider what view an English judge would be perfectly justified in taking if a British subject were to indulge in some analogous propaganda abroad. It strikes me that such propaganda is, indeed, not far removed from treason. And if we, furthermore, consider that these monstrous utterances do not only remain unpunished over here, but that our Government is actually negotiating

* The letter written by M. Raditch, the Croatian leader, appeared in THE NEAR EAST of May 31.

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY
BY APPOINTMENT.

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with their originator—just for the sake of arriving at an understanding with the Croats, surely that is proof conclusive that the subjects of this State enjoy as much liberty as any in the world. To talk in this vein, and then in the same breath to speak of the tyranny of the Serbs, is a sin against the ignorance of British public opinion no less than an insult to its intelligence. It is a *contradictio in adiecto*.

I should not have troubled to reply to M. Raditch's crazy disquisition had the latter not appeared in that highly esteemed London weekly The Near East. And my decision to reply was prompted, above all, by a wish to protect foreign opinion against being shamelessly hoodwinked. For goodness' sake, is there really anybody who would believe the tale that in Macedonia the Serbs (*i.e.*, the Radicals) caused sixty-eight peasants to be shot before the elections merely because they wished to nominate an independent Macedonian candidate? This, on top of those *free* elections, as a result of which, coupled with free, unhindered, not to say, unbridled, agitation, the *Republican* Raditch and his sixty-nine comrades have triumphed in our *kingdom!* When a man has just scored an electoral success of such signal dimensions, and then talks of unheard-of coercion on the part of the Government, the contradictory nature of his statement must be patent to every impartial reader, who will then take the rest of M. Raditch's argumentation at its proper value. And he will be finally put off when he learns that M. Raditch wittingly mixed up those sixty-eight peasants with Bulgarian *komitajis*, who harry our frontiers day and night and commit the most horrible outrages upon our populations there.

To contrast the peace-loving disposition of the Croats and their humanitarian standpoint with the Serbs is more than out of place. There is not an intelligent man in our State, no matter what branch of the nation he may happen to belong to, who is not a pacifist, and does not desire that the nations of this earth should progress in the direction of pure humanitarianism. Unfortunately, through no fault of our State, conditions are still such that we have to stand on guard, arms in hand, in defence of our dearly won freedom and independence. Our national army is an admirable weapon of defence against foes from without and—at need—also from within. I should not wonder if here lies the chief reason why M. Raditch is a pacifist. . . .

M. Raditch's Republic will not bear discussion. If he insists upon it, all agreement—such as is honestly desired by the Serbian people no less than by the Government—is impossible. We cannot *atomise* our united State, because that would be the end of its political and economic independence. True, Serbia could still carry on her independent existence in the comity of nations. Even without the Croats and Slovenes she would remain a notable factor in international life, nor would she need the trusteeship of the Great Powers, as Turkey used to do. The same cannot be said of a Croatian Republic, unsuitable already as such for federation with Serbia; and still less does it apply to a liliputian Slovene statelet. From an economic standpoint both would be impossible creations, incapable of life.

It is interesting to note what M. Raditch has to say about the partitioning of our State. The Croatian Republic is to consist of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia. Slovenia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Batchka, the Banat, and Montenegro are to decide by plebiscite whether they wish to belong to a "militarist" kingdom of Serbia or to a pacific and neutral Republic of Croatia. M. Raditch does not attempt to draw the dividing lines according to the national branches—Serbs, Croats, Slovenes—"in the lump"; he divides by provinces, that unhappy legacy of our enforced historical development. Our Prime Minister, M. Pashitch, was fully justified when in a recent speech he reproached "Pretchanski" (from across the rivers, *i.e.*, the provinces formerly part of Austria-Hungary) politics with displaying an Austro-Hungarian mentality. Of course, partition according to national denominations would be by no means easy, because all along our ostensible ethnic frontiers the three branches of our nation emerge so imperceptibly into one another, and because there are such considerable settlements of one branch to be found in the territory of the other that partition on those lines is well-nigh impossible, proof of the intrinsic unity of the Yugoslav nation.

The true solution of the "Serbo-Croat Question," as M. Raditch calls it, is to be sought in a totally different direction from that indicated by himself. Besides an occupation of Croatia or the recognition of an independent Croatian Parliament, there is a third way. *It is a living side by side, based upon the fundamental principles of the Vidovdan Constitution, which guarantees to each citizen of the State perfect freedom, regardless of local or religious denomination.* Give us a few desirable amendments to this on the whole up-to-date and democratic Constitution, so as to improve the administration and reduce its cost. Let the administration be as widely decentralised as possible, and for the love of peace let us establish autonomous local legislative bodies within the frame of the laws of the realm. All these things can be discussed and amicably settled.

Finally, M. Raditch is not in principle such an opponent of the Vidovdan Constitution. Without demur he accepted the mandate as deputy in the Belgrade Parliament. We are accustomed to such lack of logic on his part. Let him take heart and go yet one step further. The Croatian peasant will certainly raise no objection; at the worst, he may not thank his leader for bringing him by such devious paths and through so many moral and material sacrifices to the point whence our young statesmanship ought to enter upon its development.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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Reports from the upper districts in the Yemen show that there has been plentiful rain.

The King and Queen of Roumania have returned to Sinaia from their visit to Poland.

Six persons have been killed and several injured in a fort near Bucharest, where old ammunition was being broken up.

A collision between a passenger train and goods train near Felix, a watering-place in Transylvania, resulted in the death of seven persons and injury to twenty others.

A League of Nations Union has been started at Jaffa, in Palestine, under the chairmanship of the High Commissioner, Sir Herbert Samuel, who contemplates the formation of branches throughout the country.

In the competition for designs for the monument to be erected at Port Said to the memory of soldiers of the Australian and New Zealand forces who fell in Egypt, Palestine, and Syria during the War, the awards have been allotted as follows:—1st, Mr. C. W. Gilbert (250 guineas); 2nd, Mr. G. Gavin Lawson (100 guineas); and 3rd, Mr. W. L. Bowles (50 guineas).

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Near East Bookshelf.

AN OBSERVER IN MOROCCO.

"OLD MOROCCO AND THE FORBIDDEN ATLAS." By C. E. Andrews. London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 15s. net.)

This book, written by an American professor, is a queer composition, rather like Morocco itself in its mixture of the old and the new. It gives one almost a shock to find stuck among descriptions of century-old customs and translations of Berber poems reproductions of photographs. With the subject-matter these photographs, which, incidentally, are excellent, do not seem to accord; and yet the method adequately indicates its author, who obviously has achieved in his sojourn in Morocco no harmony between the old and the new.

His volume, which consists mainly of observations upon Marrakesh and upon a forbidden journey to the Souss, has a certain informative value. But we have too many observations and too few impressions. Constantly we are being told of the fascination and the impossibility of comprehending this outpost of the East; but this attitude of reverence and of helplessness before the spell of Morocco is hardly worth the serious student's attention. One feels that, with all his opportunities and the zest with which he seized them, Mr. Andrews ought to have penetrated more deeply into the soul, the life of the place; instead of which we have a series of superficial sketches, interesting enough for a magazine article, but scarcely deserving of being included in an expensive book. Yet he is a very cheery writer, with a sense of humour that drags one in his wake; so that one reaches the abrupt end with no sense of effort, if with little satisfaction. It is curious that he should have dedicated the book to Joseph Conrad, whose method of representing Eastern life is so different from this photographic method; and one does not see why the proofs, which show an occasional mixture of American and British spelling, should not have been more carefully supervised. If Mr. Andrews brings out another edition of his work, he should include a map, particularly of his route to the Souss, which might be of considerable importance to geographers and to students generally.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN.

"SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN AND THE INDIAN REFORM MOVEMENT." By S. K. Ratcliffe. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 6s. net,

The author describes this memoir as "an impersonal record," and "almost entirely an account of the Indian Reform movement." It is therefore history rather than biography, but as history it suffers from being absolutely uncritical. It shows Wedderburn always in the right, and his opponents usually as prejudiced fools, or worse; it will, therefore, be welcomed by unthinking Nationalists, but ordinary readers will look in vain for an explanation of what they want chiefly to know—why this undoubtedly able man evoked such constant antagonism in responsible circles, and achieved so little in comparison with his expenditure of effort. Apart from these defects, the book is a tolerably adequate account of its subject.

THE LOTUS ISLANDS.

"ISLES OF ILLUSION." Edited by Bohun Lynch. (London: Constable and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

It is seldom that one can read a modern book of travel that is at once so fascinating and provocative as is this volume. Not only is the personality of the writer extraordinarily mordant, but the form of his writing is individual and, indeed, remarkable. Mr. Bohun Lynch has collected a series of letters written to him by a friend, whose identity he does not discover to us, during the years 1912 to 1920. This friend has been, before he went on his travels, in turn a medical student, a bank clerk, a teacher, and an undergraduate (with Mr. Lynch) at Oxford. Then he went away, teaching first in Cairo and afterwards in South America; finally he answered the call, which had long been dinning his ears, to the South Seas. It is from these South Sea islands that these strange and bitter letters are written.

We cannot, in this place, discuss the merits of the letter writer's views upon the islands, upon the natives, the settlers, the missionaries, and the rest. In any case, that would not be an easy matter, because with so sensitive an egoist as he, such views were continually changing. Periodically, he would let different elements in his constitution have their fling, roving freely between a remote kind of Englishness and a jocund paganism. All conceivable hardships on these islands he endured, and his achievements were not few. The ugliness and beauty of the places continually reacted upon him, and he was not slow frankly to record his impressions. He, or rather his editor, has produced a book distinctly worth reading.

Without suggesting that his views upon life in the South Seas are important, we can say that they are interesting. Sometimes they are wrong—he himself often confesses to that; but the trouble with so versatile an egoist is that he is never convinced, and consequently never convinces us, that he is right. It was, for example, perhaps natural, that from such a distance the War should have seemed to him only a madness; but his letters on this event are not only petty, but even regrettable. His experiences have been unusual, perhaps unique; but even more interesting than his description of them would have been the setting down of what they had taught him.

EAST INDIA ASSOCIATION.

The President and Council of the East India Association gave a conversazione at the Caxton Hall on July 2, when there were present, among others:—Lord Lamington, Lord and Lady Pentland, Sir Lionel Jacob, Sir William and Lady Ovens Clark, Sir Herbert and Lady Holmwood, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, Sir Alexander and Lady Cardew, Sir Montague Webb, Lady Bisset, Sir John Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Sen, Sir Francis Oldfield, Sir John Cumming, Sir Frank Beaman, Lady Kensington, Sir Patrick Fagan, Sir Henry and Lady Stone, Sir Duncan Macpherson, Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas, Mr. B. S. Kamat, and Mr. and Mrs. C. Jinarajadasa.

THE NEW IRAK POSTAGE STAMPS.

In the reference to the new issue of Irak postage stamps which appeared in our issue of June 21, it should have stated the stamps had been printed by Messrs. Bradbury, Wilkinson, and Co.

We have received from the Greek Press Bureau, Limassol, the following telegram, dated June 28:—"The Archbishop has resigned, with all the bishops, the presidency of the schools on account of the interference on the part of the Government in the rights of the Church and population. Several local meetings have been held strongly protesting against the Government."

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

THE ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM AND THE RED CROSS IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—If you regard the history of the progress of ambulance work, for both peace and war, in the Eastern Dominions of the British Crown as coming within your scope, allow me to expose in your columns the erroneous method in which the Press of India frames its reports on that subject. The latest and most flagrant example is due to Reuter. The annual meeting at Simla of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem and Red Cross has very recently taken place, the Earl of Reading presiding and Lord Rawlinson being present. The report of this meeting transmitted to the leading daily papers of London is headed "The Red Cross in India." Nothing could be more unjustly misleading. It was in 1901 that the Order of St. John of Jerusalem decided to start ambulance work in India, and commissioned me, who had drawn up and submitted the scheme, to undertake it. I commanded my regiment on the frontier from 1902 to 1905 and at the same time had the work of the St. John Ambulance Association in India in my hands. In March, 1905, I, under the age clause, vacated the command of my regiment, and at the same time handed over the ambulance work to a committee, of which Lord Kitchener consented to be the chairman. Lord Curzon accepted the post of president of the Indian branch. It was under Lord Curzon's auspices that I commenced my work in Calcutta in 1905. On July 10, 1910, Viscount Knutsford, Director of the Ambulance Department and Sub-Prior of the Order, made a statement in the House of Lords, and in the report of that Department for 1915-16 a very concise history of the foundation and progress of the Indian Branch is given. In 1914-15 war opened India to the Red Cross, and subsequently fusion between the work of the Order of St. John and the Red Cross took place.

Reuter's representatives are, very naturally, persons who know little or nothing about all this past history; and as the eight-pointed white cross of St. John is to the Red Cross very much as Joe Chamberlain's celebrated white orchid is to the red buttonholes of the Labour Party, in other words, as a quiet thing is to one that is nothing if not flaring, of course, the Press gives prominence to that which flares. Still, the eight-pointed cross asks that justice should be done to it. It was in 1910 or 1911 that I resigned my post of Honorary Organising Commissioner for India of the St. John A.A.

I am, etc.,
A. C. YATE.

Beckbury Hall, Shipnal.
June 26.

[We are glad to give Colonel Yate an opportunity of recording the good work that he did in India in connection with the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, but it is only fair that it should be pointed out that neither Reuter's Agency nor the Press of India is responsible for the headlines in the London Press, and it is enough to see the ungainly heading at the top of his letter to realise why it is not likely to be repeated or to be copied by any other paper.—ED.]

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The European Schools in India Improvement Association, 92, Fleet Street, E.C., is appealing to British subjects for aid in giving children of British descent in India increased educational facilities.

General Gouraud, the former French High Commissioner for Syria, left Paris on June 23 to pay a visit to the United States at the invitation of the 42nd American Division, which will hold its annual reunion at Indianapolis on July 15.

Special schools have been opened by the Armenian National Refugee Committee for the Armenian refugee children in Constantinople, and hot meals for children are being provided daily out of the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, of London.

Reuter's Constantinople correspondent reports that the Turkish authorities having neglected to take any punitive measures, the British troops have arrested eight Turks suspected of complicity in the recent assault on a British lady near the village of Bostandjik, on the Asiatic shore of the Sea of Marmora.

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons during July, at 3 p.m., Lieut.-Colonel M. C. Nangle, F.R.G.S., will give in the Exhibition Galleries of the Imperial Institute short illustrated lectures explanatory of the following countries and their exhibits: Kenya, Uganda, Egypt, Sudan, and Somaliliand. Admission is free.

The War Office announces that the names of the following are to be added to those brought to notice for distinguished service during the operations in Waziristan, 1919-20, by General Sir C. C. Munro in his despatch of August 1, 1920:—Sir A. H. Grant, K.C.I.E., C.S.I. Muhammed Latif Khan, Dafadar, 39th Central India Horse, I.A.

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF ARCHÆOLOGY

The British School of Archæology will hold the usual exhibition of new discoveries during July at University College, Gower Street. The matter of interest to most visitors will be the papyrus with one of the earliest examples of the Gospel of St. John. This was beautifully written in Coptic about 400 A.D., the date of the earliest copies of the Greek text, and it varies all through from the known manuscripts in small detail.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

Birthday Honours.

It cannot be said that the business world was neglected in the Birthday Honours List, which made a very belated appearance at the week-end. As a matter of fact, the distinctions bestowed on commerce form its outstanding feature. Notable among the awards are the baronetcies conferred on Sir W. Watson Rutherford, chairman of the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields; Mr. J. H. B. Noble, a director of Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.; Sir A. J. Dorman, managing director of Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co.; and Mr. G. A. Wills, chairman of the Imperial Tobacco Company; and the K.B.E. conferred on Mr. Arthur Balfour.

The Monsoon.

The monsoon has made a far from auspicious commencement, and considerable anxiety will be felt with regard to the outlook in India, for an indifferent rainfall might well have disastrous consequences. But it is too early to judge as yet as to the prospects for the monsoon. It has not infrequently happened that a monsoon that has opened badly has in the end given India all the rain required, and we must hope it will be so in the present case. Incidentally, it is not only in regard to India that agricultural conditions are at the present time giving cause for apprehension. In Europe generally the weather has been unfavourable for crops, and unless a very remarkable improvement takes place from now onwards, it is only too probable that the yield of cereals will be much below the normal, and if that happens, it will mean rising prices and a shortage for some regions. The Near East as a whole seems to be better situated than Europe, though in some districts there the farmers (who are proverbially pessimistic) talk gloomily of the coming harvest, though their view is fortunately not shared by other observers.

The Position in Roumania.

The report on conditions in Roumania in 1922 by Mr. Adams, Commercial Secretary to the British Legation at Bucharest, does not make encouraging reading. He states that little progress was made during the year in regard to economic reconstruction, while pointing out that certain hopeful signs were apparent. The transport system, which is all-important for the country's development, "continues to be in an unsatisfactory condition," is his verdict, while "the permanent way seems to be rather worse than at the end of 1921"; also, in his view, it is impossible to foresee how many years it will take for Roumania to adjust her adverse trade balance. In reviewing the position in Roumania, it is necessary to take into the fullest consideration the extraordinary nature of the problem with which the Government has been faced as a result of the country's disastrous experience during the War. It is true that the solution of the problem has not been facilitated by some of the measures that have been carried out; but the mistakes of the past have served the purpose of illuminating the path along which Roumania has to travel, and the present Administration has made it evident that its policy is framed on very deliberate lines, and time must be given it to prove the practical value of the policy.

By Car to Baghdad.

It is interesting to note that no time has been lost in taking advantage of the motor-car service to be inaugurated between Haifa and Baghdad next October. On October 27 it is proposed to carry out from London a seven-weeks' tour, which will include visits to Cairo, Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, where further operations in the tomb of Tutankhamen will be in progress, thence to Jerusalem, where the Palestine Exploration Fund will be carrying out, under Prof. R. A. S. Macalister, excavations on the site of the City of David. Included in the Palestine tour will be visits to Nazareth, Tiberias, Haifa, thence to Beyrout, with an excursion to Baalbek. After a stay at Damascus, a trip across the Syrian desert will be undertaken to Baghdad. From the latter town it is hoped that it will be possible to extend the tour to Babylon and to Ur of the Chaldees, where the excavations on the site of Nebuchadnezzar's palace will have been resumed. The tour is to be under the personal supervision of Captain F. W. Chardin, formerly Political Officer at Mosul, of the Overseas Bureau for Travel, who speaks, in addition to other languages, Arabic, Turkish, and Persian. A tour of this nature, apart from its general interest, should afford an opportunity for a rapid survey of commercial conditions and business openings in the countries visited.

State *v.* Company Management.

In his speech at the general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Sir Charles Armstrong touched on the question of State or company management of the railways in connection with the future of the two railways, whose contracts will shortly expire, and emphasised the unanimity of the leading industrialists in Bombay with whom he discussed the question against anything in the nature of State management. The view is held in Bombay that company management is essential for sound and economical working, and that competition is desirable in the interests of trade and industrial development. In view of all the experiences we have had of the disadvantages and drawbacks of State interference in commerce, it is not surprising that this attitude should be taken.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED
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Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, HOLT & CO.

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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British Consular Reports.

IV.—ROUMANIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Commercial Secretary to the British Legation, Bucharest. Mr. Alexander Adams, on economic conditions in Roumania in 1922 :—

During the year 1922 it cannot be said that, on the whole, much progress has been made in the economic rehabilitation of Roumania, but indications are not lacking that serious efforts were made in that direction. The more hopeful signs which were apparent were as follows :—First, certain real economies were effected in the public administration by the Minister of Finance; secondly, direct taxation was unified throughout the whole country by means of a law which recently passed through Parliament; and, thirdly, the process of handing over land taken from big estates all over the country continued steadily.

On the other hand, it is still too early to say that these tendencies have yet had much result, judging from the following facts :—In the early part of 1922 the Roumanian Government brought in fresh Budget estimates which amount to approximately 10,498,000 lei for annual expenditure. Since that date, however, both the international and the internal value of the leu has decreased. The outstanding financial measure of the year was the conversion of the external floating debt charge (consisting of Roumanian Treasury Bills to the amount of about £35,000,000 sterling, into 4 per cent. consolidated bonds). This conversion was accompanied by an issue of a small priority loan also at 4 per cent. for a nominal £4,500,000. The services of both of these loans was secured by a first charge on the existing export taxes in force on products leaving Roumania. These export taxes are levied in foreign currencies and remittances are made each month, direct from the sums received by the Banca Nationala to the British issuing houses to provide payments for interest and sinking fund. As a second security the State Revenues are pledged. The amount of paper money in circulation also increased during 1922, though a portion of this increase may be regarded as being legitimately, though not proportionately, covered by greater amounts of gold coins received by the Banca Nationala.

Unfortunately, the transport system, both land and water, continues to be in an unsatisfactory condition. The permanent way seems to be rather worse than at the end of 1921, and railway accidents have been more frequent. During the period under review exports of grain have considerably decreased and loads of timber have slightly increased. The autumn sowings of 1922 were less than those made in the autumn of the preceding year.

The net results of these factors is that the trade balance remains against Roumania, and it is impossible to foresee how many years it will take for her to adjust this adverse balance. It is obvious that the prior conditions of such an adjustment are the reorganisation of her taxation in order that revenues may cover expenditure, and the reconstruction of her transport system. In these circumstances the general recommendation contained in the last two annual reports, that credits should not be granted to Roumanian importers, should continue to be borne in mind. It will be seen that the situation in Roumania continues to be unsatisfactory, notwithstanding efforts in some directions to put the finances of the country into order. The position has been full of difficulty for the Roumanian Government and people during the last few years.

Agriculture.

Since the leu commenced to depreciate it has apparently been thought possible to devise means whereby the Government could encash or utilise the difference between internal and world prices to lower the cost of living. On each occasion when the leu has been temporarily stabilised the prices of commodities have approximated the world level, so that it might now be obvious that this belief in an artificial control of prices is ill-founded, notwithstanding which efforts are continued in a variety of methods which do not succeed in attaining their object. In one case it is the imposition of heavy import taxes, in another the restriction of export to a certain quantity dependent upon other quantities handed over to home consumption, or upon production; in others both methods are applied. The adverse result of this policy and of the land reform measures is seen to-day in their effect on agriculture, when the fourth harvest gathered in since the Armistice is still about 3,000,000 tons short of the pre-war average.

The conversion of great estates into small peasant holdings was bound to affect the wheat sowings unfavourably, but some compensation might have been found in the increased effort with which the peasant would have cultivated his own land, had he not been discouraged into following a waiting policy by a series of measures passed by successive Governments which have restricted production.

The prolonged rains which did much damage to the maize also hampered the autumn ploughing for wheat, rye, and barley. The autumn sowings for wheat are less than half the pre-war average. Until the spring sowings have taken place it is impossible to forecast to what extent this limitation of the area sown in wheat will persist. Barley and oats are bringing more than the official fixed price of wheat, and although this fixed prices does not appear to rule all contracts, yet it may be taken that a good deal of the available crop changes hands at prices approximating thereto. Landowners are slowly abandoning the cultivation of wheat, a crop in which many of them took great pride, and for which they evinced a predilection as being essentially a landowner's crop in contradistinction to maize, which was grown by peasants.

(To be concluded.)

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ROUMAINE

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - Lei 50,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - - - 12,865,588.76
DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS 273,629,395.47
(At the date of June 30, 1920).

Head Office: BUCHAREST, Str. Smardan, 3.
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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION

Report of Executive Committee.

At a recent meeting of the Administrative Council of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, the report of the Executive Committee for the three months ended May 31 was submitted. We give the following extracts from the report :—

The Levy.

During the months of March, April and May the sum collected on account of the levy amounts to £9,459 7s. 0d., making with interest a total of £82,859 11s. 0d. since collection started on September 1, 1921. Pending the passing of the Levy Bill part of this sum has been invested in Treasury Bonds, whilst the balance remains on deposit at the bank. The Committee are glad to be able to report that the Cotton Industry Bill, which provides for the collection of the levy from all spinners, passed through its Committee stage in the House of Commons on May 16. In view of the pledge given by the Government that facilities for the Bill would be provided, if necessary, there is every reason to believe that its passage into law this Session is practically assured.

India.

The Bill to impose a cess of 4 annas a bale on all raw cotton used by Indian mills or exported, by means of which funds will be provided for the Indian Central Cotton Committee, has passed into law, and the Committee have thus been placed in a position to commence work on the important programme they have outlined.

A Sub-Committee of the Corporation has been appointed to deal with questions relating to India. The following gentlemen have kindly expressed their willingness to serve on the committee :— Mr. J. H. Coney, Mr. H. R. C. Hailey, Mr G. F. Keatinge and Sir Marshall Reid, in addition to the following members of the Council :—Mr. W. H. Brady, Mr. W. H. Himbury, Mr. F. Hodgkinson, Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, Mr. O. Marshall, Mr. W. R. W. Shand, Mr. F. A. Tomlinson and Mr. E. J. Turner.

Research and Training.

The Executive Committee have given careful consideration to an important recommendation made by the Research and Training Sub-Committee on the facilities at present existing for giving instruction in this country in those scientific subjects of use to cotton growers, and the necessity of expanding them. The Committee have not only urged that the facilities should be increased for training men for work in cotton-growing countries, but have pointed to the need for providing also means whereby those men who have gone abroad for this purpose may be able to refer to experts at home scientific problems for the solution of which they have neither the time nor perhaps the specialised knowledge. With a view to forming such a group of specialists, the Executive Committee have decided to offer retaining grants to certain universities where specialist work is already going on, and where, for a comparatively small additional sum, it might be possible to devote a well-qualified assistant exclusively to those aspects of the subject likely to be helpful either in the training of men to take up agricultural work on cotton or in the solution of such problems as may be referred to the Corporation by the Cotton Specialist abroad or on study leave. It has accordingly been decided to offer the sum of £1,000 a year for five years to each of the following institutions :—The School of Agriculture of the University of Cambridge for Plant Genetics; the Imperial College of Science and Technology for Plant Physiology and Pathology; the University of Manchester for Mycology and Entomology; the Soil Physics Department of the Rothamsted Experimental Station for Soil Physics.

So far as the grant permits, the Corporation expect from an institution accepting a grant that :—(1) It should devote the grant to the investigation of such branches of the special subject or subjects for which the grant is given as are known to be or are likely to prove of importance to cultivators of cotton, by an assistant delegated especially for this purpose. (2) It should receive holders of the Corporation's studentships and assistants on study leave without charge, and provide them with the necessary appliances for their work. (3) It should deal as far as it can with enquiries from scientific advisers to cotton-growing countries as to the methods that should be adopted, or the principles on which an investigation should be conducted, and for this purpose it should have available such publications as are likely to give the required information.

The Committee have also set aside the sum of £2,000 to aid definite pieces of research at institutions either in this country or overseas, and to provide for contingencies at the institutions named above. It is thought that this sum will suffice to meet the needs of the next few years.

It is hoped that the adoption of the scheme outlined above will bring scientific advisers in cotton-growing countries into direct touch with work that is being done at the Universities, in subjects in which they may require assistance, while close co-operation between the Corporation and the British Cotton Industry Research Association is already assured.

British Empire Exhibition.

The Cotton Textile Industry Committee hope shortly to summon a meeting of all the exhibitors in the Cotton Section of the Exhibition, when various points of detail will be settled. After this meeting has been held the Exhibition Sub-Committee of the Corporation expect to be in a position to draw up their plans for the joint exhibit with the British Cotton Growing Association and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations. A letter has been sent to the Governments and Directors of Agriculture of the various cotton-growing Colonies and Protectorates informing them that the Corporation propose to stage an exhibit, and asking them whether they will assist in providing samples.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Firmer Tone in Futures.

The Commercial Company of Egypt in their report for the week ended June 22 state :—

Since our last report, the futures market has been in general firmer, and with the exception of June and August Ashmouni prices at the close are slightly higher. The better tone displayed in our market can be attributed to the fact that the cheapness of our cotton compared to American has finally attracted the attention of spinners, and resulted in a fair amount of business being put through. Another cause is that the stocks are steadily decreasing, and the remaining cotton is held by people who appear to be financially independent, and decided not to part with it before a higher level of prices is attained. As soon as the closing of old straddles of Sakellaridis against Ashmouni had been completed June Ashmouni lost its strength, and has been again quoted at about $1 cheaper than July Sakellaridis. The Egyptian market in Liverpool has only fluctuated slightly, although one would be entitled to expect greater activity in view of the recent extraordinarily large daily spot sales. Stocks there are, however, also decreasing steadily, and that factor can but exercise eventually its influence on the course of prices. This week's receipts amounted to 8,405 krs., and the total since September 1 stands now at 6,608,229 krs. Exports have amounted to 42,449 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,380,576 krs., against 1,414,620 krs. a week ago and 1,883,481 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—We have had a fair week at Minet-el-Bassal. Sales amount to about 5,700 bales, of which we estimate 4,500 B/s. Sakellaridis, 1,200 Uppers and a few bales of Brown and White. Arrivals are more than last week, but very small, and the stock shows a further decrease.

Sakellaridis.—All styles have been dealt in. Prices of spot against contracts are without much change, but inclined to harden for grades below fully good fair, which are scarce and in good demand.

Uppers have been rather neglected, which is but to be expected at their present high rates in comparison with Sakel, which naturally attracts buyers to the latter growth. Most of the business has been in Fully Good Fair and above, though all styles have been dealt in. Except Fully Good, which is rather dearer, there is very little change from last week's rates.

Brown and White.—A retail trade has been done at unchanged rates for Brown, and at a slightly easier basis for White. Supplies are very small.

Crop 1923.—Latest news on the crop continues good. There is nothing special to report.

The Liverpool Report and the Cotton Trade Review will be found on page 24. Owing to pressure on our space, the usual reports on Near East markets and stocks and shares are omitted this week.

TEXTILES.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Cyprus, June 2.

The market is very dull. The prospects of the coming crop are good.

June 9.

There is a slightly better tone in the market. Small sales of wool and maize seed have taken place in Marseilles. There is a noticeable decrease in imports, particularly from Germany.

Adana, May 31.

The sowing of cotton seed was finished here on May 15. The climatic conditions at present ruling being very favourable to the growing of cotton and a large area being sown this year, there should be an abundant harvest, which is estimated at about 70,000 bales, as we predicted in our previous report. Cereals, which suffered severely this year from the heavy rains which fell in February and March, are considered only of medium quality. It is not generally believed that this year's crop, after supplying local needs, will provide a large surplus. The harvest is nearly finished. Barley has already appeared on the market and will soon be followed by wheat.

Djihan.—The cereal harvest is being actively pursued. The tobacco production has this year been particularly encouraged by the purchases made by certain merchants from Constantinople. An area of 20,000 dunums of land has been sown, as against only 3,400 dunums last year.

Adana.—From a commercial point of view, our market during the present month has transacted no business worthy of mention. 120 bales of cotton were, however, exported, and 5/600 bales of unwashed wool.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

The report of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Co., Ltd., for the year ended December 31. states that the business both of this company and of the associated companies has continued to expand. At December 31 the Oriental Telephone Co. had a total of 10,738 stations, an increase of 675 during the year. The gross revenue of the company's branches shows a satisfactory increase, but owing to the growth in expenses and charges the net revenue is but little in excess of that in the previous year. In the last annual report it was stated that the Government of India had granted to this company and the associated companies security of tenure for a period of twenty years from March, 1923, the Government having abandoned the right which they previously possessed of purchasing the undertakings at recurring intervals during that period. The companies have in return undertaken to carry out extensive works necessary for modernising and improving the service generally, and increases have been sanctioned in the rates of subscription payable in order to meet the higher costs of working. All the supplemental agreements embodying these terms have been signed. In accordance with the terms of the supplemental agreements the company has transferred, or is about to transfer, its undertakings in Madras and Rangoon-Moulmein, to local Indian companies, the purchase consideration in each case being fully paid shares in the new companies.

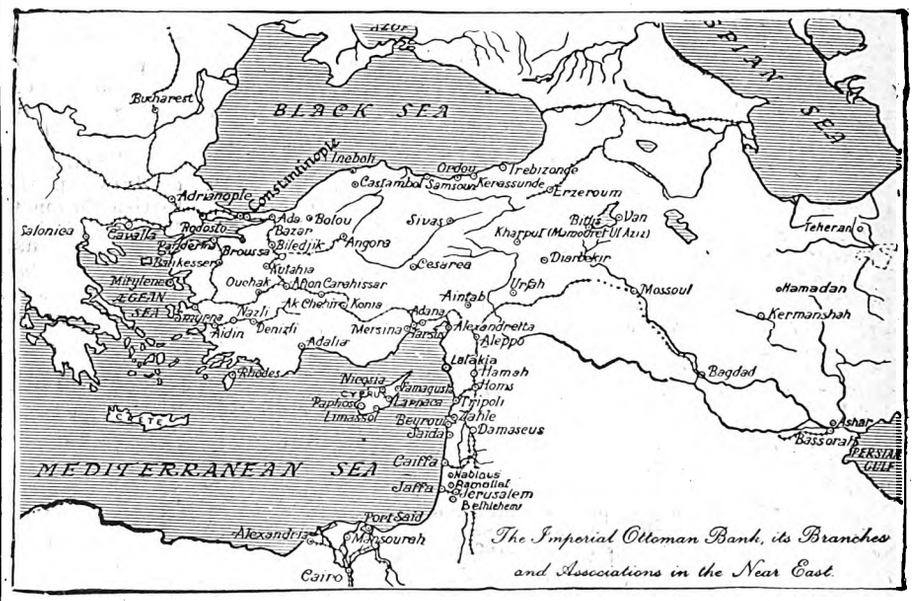
The annual general meeting of the Imperial Ottoman Bank will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on July 25.

The directors of the Adriatic Bank have decided henceforward to use only the Yugoslav name of that institution, "Jadranska Banka "

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Shipping Intelligence.

SHIPPING AT GALATZ IN 1922.

River traffic has been very slack during the past year, there having been no grain worth mentioning loaded at up-river ports for transport to overseas shipping centres (says the British Vice-Consul at Galatz, Mr. L. H. Hughes-Hallett, in his annual report). Grain shippers are now adopting the practice of loading barley and oats at Lower Danube ports into lighters for winter depots at Sulina, and are arranging to have floating elevators at their disposal at that port for transhipment purposes. In present circumstances the export from these depots cannot be expected to attain an appreciable quantity. The reduced export was detrimental to sea and river navigation, as, through lack of freight, many vessels have been idle, waiting for a better crop, and thus incurring unnecessary expenditure.

The town of Galatz had a pre-war population of 70,000-80,000, and at present between 240,000 and 300,000, and this has necessitated the building of an additional 2,000 buildings in this one town alone during the past year. The cost of labour and material is very heavy, and shows no sign of reduction. Building operations progress slowly, owing to the scarcity of labour, and to the fact that there is insufficient currency. Rents are exorbitant, and are likely to remain so until housing accommodation becomes more plentiful.

The close of the season 1922 sees the near completion of much-needed improvements, for during the summer and autumn the dock engineers have erected at Galatz two large new receiving sheds of galvanised iron, with a cargo capacity of about 3,000 tons each. In addition, there have been installed four new electrical cranes with a lifting capacity of 3 tons each, and one new electrical crane with a lifting capacity of 40 tons.

Similarly one new receiving shed, together with two new electrical cranes, have been erected at Braila. The whole of this material was supplied by British firms. It is to be expected, therefore, that the annual congestion of cargo, which has been a feature of the docks at Galatz for some years, will be avoided in the future. With the means now available it is possible to discharge daily about 2,700 tons of general cargo from vessels.

During the year 1922, 78 British vessels with a total tonnage of 120,957 entered this port, and 65 British vessels with a total tonnage of 100,390 cleared, compared with 97 with a tonnage of 180,940 which entered, and 38 with a tonnage of 66,583 which cleared during the year 1921. These figures support the statement that imports during the year under review have fallen off slightly, for the reasons stated earlier in this report. There is an increase in the number of British vessels which cleared from this port, compared with 1921, amounting to 27. With regard to shipping of other nationalities, statistics are not yet to hand, but the following are the totals of vessels which entered and cleared from the Danube (Port of Sulina) during 1922:—Entered, 521; tonnage, 768,027; cleared, 523; tonnage, 805,316.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 25).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 7); s.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 12).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 18); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, July 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 7); s.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 20); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 3).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Murray for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 9); s.s. Clan Maciver for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 16).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Cressado for Malta, Patras, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, July 7).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canterbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 12); s.s. City of Chester (Birkenhead, July 28).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Venetian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, July 11); s.s. Bavarian for Malta and Alexandria (London, July 18).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Kohistan for Port Sudan and Persian Gulf (Manchester, July 17); s.s. Frankenfels for Persian Gulf (London, July 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, July 7); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah for Malta and Alexandria (London, July 13); s.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, July 14).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Falernian for Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 13); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 14); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, July 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 17).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	158-163
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	425-440
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	800-810,000
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	26.06-26.08
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	91.15
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	885-905
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	39-42,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	700-720*
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.57 1/16-4.57 3/8
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	77.25-77.35
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	153
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	105½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	475-525
Teheran	Krans to £	50	51½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-330,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	550-590,000

*Nominal

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To Baghdad by Motor Across the Desert.

A small party, accompanied by Captain F. W. Chardin, late Political Officer at Mosul, will leave London on the 27th October for a Seven Weeks' Tour, embracing Cairo, Luxor, for the Tomb of Tutankhamen, Jerusalem, for the excavations of the City of David, Tiberias, Haifa, Beyrout, Baalbek, Damascus, and across the desert to Baghdad with a visit to Ancient Babylon, and to Ur of the Chaldees. To business men this tour offers an ideal means of obtaining first-hand knowledge of markets and their local conditions

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Company Meetings.

MORTGAGE COMPANY OF EGYPT.

Economic Situation of the Country.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Mortgage Company of Egypt, Ltd., was held on June 28, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., K.C.B., C.S.I. (Chairman of the London Committee), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. S. R. Duncan) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts, and in the course of his remarks, said: Gentlemen,—The new Constitution of Egypt was finally approved and promulgated by King Fuad and his Ministers in April last. Regarding the effect of this change of political status on the business of the company, all that it is necessary to say is that there has been no prejudicial effect upon the normal and friendly relations between the company and its clients, and no disturbance of the operation of the law, where it has been necessary to go to the Courts.

The Price of Cotton.

After the violent fluctuations of recent years the price of cotton has remained fairly steady, at 30 to 35 talaris per kantar in Alexandria. At the present price the results to the cultivator should be fairly satisfactory. This is confirmed by the fact that agricultural clients of the Mortgage Company, whose properties are carefully administered, have, in general, met their engagements without difficulty. The clients who have experienced difficulty have usually been those whose principal occupation is unconnected with farming.

In other respects the economic condition of the country is satisfactory. The adverse balance of trade which was shown by the figures for imports and exports in the year September 1, 1920, to August 31, 1921, has been corrected. There is also evidence that large sums have been invested by Egyptians in the purchase of Egyptian securities, and that there is, in consequence, a large increase in the amount of the Egyptian public debt which is held in Egypt. It seems probable that more than half of the debt is now held by residents in Egypt.

The Balance Sheet.

I will now ask you to look at the balance-sheet. The total reserves, together with the profit on sales in suspense, now amount to £393,198, and will be increased to over £427,000 by the allocation to special reserve which we propose.

There is again a small increase in the instalments in arrear, which now stand in the balance-sheet at £369,000, compared with £352,000 last year. On May 31 this outstanding balance had been reduced to £335,000. In nearly all cases the security held fully covers the amount of the debt, and, as stated in the report, it is considered that any doubtful cases are amply provided for by the reserves that have been made for this purpose. I may mention that the security for each loan is periodically revalued, in order that, where necessary, measures of protection may be taken.

The amount of new business offering has been somewhat less than in the preceding years. The Board has continued to follow a policy of very careful scrutiny and selection, and has only entertained applications for loans upon lands or buildings which offered unimpeachable security. The amount of the new loans actually granted was £389,000, as against £558,000 in the year 1921-22. The total amount invested in mortgages is now £3,001,441, compared with £3,122,024 last year.

The Control in Egypt.

Throughout the past year the affairs of the company have been controlled, managed, and conducted by the board of directors in Egypt in accordance with the new arrangement adopted in March, 1922. As a result, the company is no longer subject to British income-tax upon its profits, except in so far as those profits are brought to this country for distribution to shareholders here. The reduction of expenditure under this head is about £14,000, with the result that the balance of profit carried to the balance-sheet, after providing for debenture interest and preference share dividend, and also for the compensation paid to directors who retired, is £64,105, as against £46,354 last year. This enables the Board to recommend an allocation of £34,726 to the special reserve, in place of £15,000. In this connection I venture to recall a statement I made at the extraordinary general meeting on March 16, 1922. "In future," I said, "if all profits except those distributed in the United Kingdom are free from income-tax the sums placed to reserve can be largely increased without affecting the sums distributed to the Ordinary shareholders. This will, of course, tend to strengthen the reserves, which are a protection to the Preference shareholder." It is satisfactory to find that this anticipation is now being realised. The shareholders are greatly indebted to the Board in Egypt, and in particular to Harari Pasha, the Chairman, for the constant care and close attention which they have given to the business of the company.

Colonel the Hon. Sidney Peel, D.S.O., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 12 per cent. was declared.

EGYPTIAN HOTELS.

Details of Proposed Amalgamation.

The twenty-sixth annual general meeting of the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., was held on June 29, at the offices of the company, 11, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, P.C., Chairman of the company, presiding.

The notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors having been read,

The Chairman said: You will no doubt, as usual, take the directors' report and accounts as read.

The profits of the hotels are shown at £47,374, which, it will be observed, includes £5,000, being part of the profits of Semiramis Hotel. Last year we did not bring into our accounts any of the profits earned by Semiramis. The profit at Shepheard's Hotel this year is £42,374, as compared with £52,852 for the year ended April 30, 1922, a decrease of some £10,500. This decrease in profits is mainly due to the slack summer in 1922. In the latter part of the season, however, the discoveries at Luxor attracted a very large number of visitors to Cairo, with consequent benefit to your company.

As you are aware, your company has for many years been the principal shareholder in the Semiramis Hotel, and has also made considerable advances to that company. When addressing you last year I mentioned that the Semiramis Hotel had had a very successful year, and I am pleased to be able to report that for the year ended April 30 last the accounts of the Semiramis show even more successful results than for the year to April 30, 1922. Your directors, therefore, feel fully justified in bringing back into our profits a sum of £5,000, which is only a portion of the profits of the Semiramis Hotel for last year, and is considerably less than the amounts we have provided in past years to write down the book value of our investments in and advances to that hotel.

The Balance Sheet.

Turning to the balance-sheet, you will observe that the value of our freehold and leasehold land and buildings this year appears at the sum of £55,038 10s. 4d., and that the suspense account for land sales has now disappeared from the balance-sheet, the amount representing the sale of land not conveyed to the purchaser having been deducted from the figures of freehold and leasehold land and buildings. We are able to do this because the land sales contract has now been completed, except that we are still liable to convey the remainder of the land to the purchaser when called upon to do so.

During the year there have been further additions to plant, fixtures and furniture, amounting to £12,528 14s. 6d.

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Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920	53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920	28,300,000
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In the main, this is the expenditure which I foreshadowed when addressing you last year, the money having been laid out chiefly in the provision of private bathrooms—an expenditure which the managing director reports has proved very remunerative.

The other items in the balance-sheet which show any considerable change as compared with last year are those in connection with our interests in the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels, which owns the Semiramis Hotel. As is stated on the balance-sheet, your company now owns the entire share capital of the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels and has also acquired the whole of the Second Mortgage Debentures of that company, which were previously held as collateral security for a loan which had been guaranteed by your company. We are therefore in the position as regards the Société Suisse Egyptienne des Hotels that we hold the whole of the Second Mortgage Debentures and the whole of the share capital, and are practically the sole creditors, except that there is a charge on the assets of the company for approximately £50,000 by way of First Debentures, in which we also have a substantial holding. Excluding our interest in these First Debentures, the value of our interest in Semiramis stands in the balance-sheet at £48,888, a conservative figure in view of the results shown by that hotel for the last two years.

Financial Position.

Our financial position is a good one. Investments in Egyptian Government securities are of the same nominal value as last year, and stand in the balance-sheet at cost price, £39,101 6s. 2d. Their market value at the date of the balance-sheet was £44,000. Cash, £82,620 11s. 7d., is some £16,000 less than last year, the decrease being due to the expenditure of £20,000 already referred to in acquiring the Second Mortgage Debentures of the Semiramis Hotel.

The undistributed balance of our profit and loss account is £51,333 4s. 4d., and our special reserve account stands at £35,000, showing a total of undistributed profits of £86,336 4s. 4d.

The Proposed Amalgamation.

In the directors' report which has been circulated it will be observed that reference is made to a proposed amalgamation of the undertaking of this company with that of the Société des Grands Hotels d'Egypte. Although the time has not arrived for the shareholders to be asked to pass any resolution on this subject, you will no doubt expect that I should give some details of the proposed scheme. The Société des Grands Hotels d'Egypte, as you are probably aware, owns the Continental and other hotels in Egypt, and, as stated in the directors' report, that company have recently acquired a substantial holding in the Ordinary shares of Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., and are now, I believe, the principal shareholders. It is their desire that there should be a more complete amalgamation of the interests of the two companies, which would have the effect of bringing under one control all the principal hotels in Cairo, and should make for more economical working and better results generally. The Société des Grands Hotels has a share capital of £148,000, divided into 37,000 fully-paid shares of £4 each. The balance-sheet of April 30, 1922, shows reserve accounts amounting to £119,078. The profits of the hotels, as shown by the accounts for the year ended April 30, 1922, are £64,065, against which have been charged costs of general administration, £5,639, interest and amortisation of Debentures, £20,537, and depreciation, £16,609. The balance of profits for the year, after meeting these charges, is £21,280, making with the balance of undistributed balance of profits brought forward, £31,456, out of which was paid a dividend of 50 piastres per share, equivalent to 12¾ per cent. per annum. The shares have recently been quoted locally at £12 10s. per share, so that on the proposed terms of one share in the Société des Grands Hotels for three fully-paid Ordinary shares of £1 each in Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., there is a slight advantage on market quotations in favour of the Ordinary shareholders in this company, our shares having recently been quoted at £3 12s. 6d. per share.

Rights of Preference Shareholders.

The terms proposed fully protect the rights of our Preference shareholders. They will be entitled, if the scheme goes through, to have in exchange for their shares Five per Cent. Debentures in Grands Hotels to the nominal value of their Preference share holdings in Egyptian Hotels. These Debentures will be redeemable at 105 by means of a sinking fund. Alternatively the Preference shareholders may be paid out in cash at par.

Under the terms of a conditional agreement which has been entered into, the undertaking of Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., is to be acquired by the Société des Grands Hotels as from May 1 last, and it is a condition of that agreement that we are to be at liberty to declare the dividends recommended by the directors in the report now before you.

The conditional agreement has already been accepted by the shareholders of the Grands Hotels Company. Under the provision of the Companies Acts it has now to be submitted for sanction to the Court, and, if the Court approves, meetings of the shareholders of our company must be summoned to decide whether or not the scheme of amalgamation shall be confirmed. At these meetings full particulars of the conditional agreement will be submitted.

I now beg to move: "That the directors' report and accounts for the year to April 30, 1923, as submitted to the shareholders, be received and adopted."

Mr. Charles Baehler seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. H. M. Snow, M.V.O., a dividend of 5 per cent. on the Preference shares was declared, and on the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Baehler, a dividend of 30 per cent. on the Ordinary shares was declared.

Sir W. B. Peat proposed the re-election of the Right Hon. Lord Claud Hamilton, P.C., as a director. He said that as it was not improbable that this was the last occasion on which he or anyone else would have the opportunity of proposing the re-election of any member of the board, and he wished to bear testimony to the services of the Chairman, who had been on the Board since the inception of the company and had helped to build up the splendid position in which the company found itself. He hoped that, after the amalgamation, should it become effective, there would be a still more successful future for the hotels.

Mr. Baehler seconded the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Messrs. Turquand, Youngs and Co. were reappointed auditors, and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

The hundred and forty-seventh half-yearly general meeting of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company was held on June 29 at the company's offices, 48, Copthall Avenue, E.C. Sir Charles H. Armstrong (chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary (Mr. R. H. Walpole) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that when he addressed them a year ago, he had to report a deficit on the year's working of 240 lakhs, which was due mainly to increased cost of coal and an all-round increase in working expenses. During the past year the position had improved, but there was still a small deficit of 8.20 lakhs, and consequently there

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were no surplus profits to divide. The guaranteed interest for the half-year of 1½ per cent. was being paid as usual, together with a dividend of ⅜ per cent. which they were able to make from a small fund they had in hand. The return for the year was, therefore, 3⅜ per cent. Although rates and fares were raised at the beginning of the year, traffics on the whole had been disappointing. There had been a decrease in the number of passengers carried, and also some falling off in the tonnage of goods, but receipts generally were higher owing to the increased rates and fares, which were necessary to cover the greatly increased cost of working. There were special circumstances in 1921-22 to account for the large deficit of 240 lakhs, but increased working expenses remained, and, so far as he could see, were likely to continue. It was necessary, therefore, to reduce working costs wherever possible, and it was with this object in view that he went out to India last November on a three months' inspection. In connection with working expenses, he might mention that they had inaugurated a transportation department, that was to say, they had withdrawn the transportation elements from the traffic and locomotive departments and combined them in one department, whose function was to push the traffic through efficiently and expeditiously. That scheme took some time to work out, and was only in its initial stage when he was in India, but he saw enough to convince him that it would be a great help in the movement of traffic and cause a substantial saving in expenditure.

The future of the two Indian railways whose contracts were shortly expiring was an interesting topic during his tour in India. He discussed the question with leading industrialists in Bombay, and was surprised at the unanimity with which they objected to anything in the way of State management, which, by the way, was being discarded first by one country and then by another on the ground of its extravagance and inefficiency. Italy and Austria, so far as he could see, were the latest converts and, although the circumstances were no doubt exceptional, Germany might quite possibly follow suit, for at the present time there were enormous deficits on the working of the German State railways and a great drain consequently on the National Exchequer. The view held in Bombay was that company management was essential for sound and economical working, and that competition, even though it might be slight, was desirable in the interests of trade and industrial development. For some time a satisfactory and businesslike solution of this question had been sought, but it had not yet been found. So far as this railway was concerned, it would, he imagined, be impossible to float it as an Indian company on terms which would be satisfactory to the Secretary of State as the predominant partner. The G.I.P. Railway was, however, a fine property, and as a great deal of money had been spent on it during the past twenty-three years it had great potential possibilities, and he felt certain that handsome profits would be earned. That being so, the possibility of forming an Indian company on satisfactory terms was by no means remote. Meantime, whatever changes were made to meet the needs of the day they should be carried out with as little disturbance as possible to existing conditions, so that eventually the line might pass from one management to another without friction, interruption of policy, loss of efficiency, or discontent and uncertainty of staff, and uncertainty as to the future was in everyone's mind during his recent tour in India.

Prospects for the current year were, he regretted to say, not altogether favourable, as traffic returns were disappointing, and until trade revived he did not think there was much chance of increased receipts. The monsoon had started quietly.

The report was unanimously adopted.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Good Inquiry and Fair Business.

Messrs Reynolds and Gibson report as follows under date June 27:—

The inquiry for spot Egyptian has again been good, and a very fair business has resulted. As compared with the series of fluctuating "futures" markets which we have lately witnessed, the period now under review has been one of comparative calm, and spot cotton has had an opportunity of finding its own level, the net result of which has been that the basis of Sakellaridis has hardened slightly, whilst that of Uppers has shown a corresponding decline. Ten days ago the selection of Uppers was becoming extremely limited in character, and there seemed every prospect that spinners would have to pay 17.00d. or over for F.G.F. to Good Uppers before very long. Generally speaking, however, spinners declined to follow the advance, and rather more cotton appearing on offer than was expected, the usual weak sellers appeared with the inevitable result. It is unlikely, however, that Uppers will lose much ground; indeed, it is more probable that they will recover what little they have lost, as there are still four months before the new crop can make its presence felt.

In Sakellaridis the customary mopping-up process continues steadily, the bulk of the cotton purchased being, as heretofore, Good Fair to Strict Fully Good Fair, and prices paid have varied from 15½d.-16¼d. Over the latter price the inquiry continued to be of fair dimensions, but actual business has been limited. A small business has been done in the finer grades, the top price paid during the week being 19.50d. Low cotton 12d.-14d. has continued to be in fair request; Brown and White cottons have been comparatively neglected, but rather a better trade has taken place in Sudan cotton, the white variety being chiefly wanted at about 100-150 on contracts.

C.i.f. business showed some improvement at the beginning of the week, but during the last day or two it fell back again into its previous state of stagnation. Crop news to hand has been distinctly favourable to the plant, and the backwardness previously reported in the Delta has been practically made up again during the past month. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 22nd inst. were returned as 5,702 bales. Quotations of Brown and Upper show a rise of 5 points on the week. Sakellaridis has been advanced 20 points all round. Sales, 4,500 bales (includes 810 bales Sudan). F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 16.20d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

No Improvement in Conditions.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended June 30 states:—

Unfortunately, no improvement can be reported in the trade conditions which have prevailed during the past few days. Buyers, whether of cloth or yarn, continue to restrict their operations to what may be termed "hand-to-mouth" buying. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners is recommending a continued curtailment of 50 per cent. of production of yarns spun from American cotton until the end of August, exclusive of holidays, but the number of those who have confidence in remedial measures of this character is becoming smaller and smaller.

Yarn.—The turnover in this section shows no signs of increasing, and it is coming to be recognised that the "minimum price" scheme is a failure, as sellers are to be found prepared to accept as much as 1d. and 1½d. per lb. less than the basic prices. As has been the case for so long spinners of Egyptian qualities are in a better position than those using the American staple.

Cloth.—The week started with a slightly better feeling owing to an increased inquiry, which, however, proved short-lived. As usual, manufacturers cannot in the majority of cases quote prices within the reach of overseas buyers. Here and there fair-sized lines are reported to have been booked for China, mainly in fancy goods, but the volume of business being placed for India is still very disappointing. Other overseas markets call for no comment, and under the influence of depressing weather the home trade inquiry remains negligible.

Raw Cotton.—The raw cotton market has been more subdued, and fluctuations have been within narrower limits. The "spot" demand is still small, but a fair turnover is reported in Egyptian qualities, much of which is said to be for export. Closing prices are as follows: American fully middling, 16.67; Egyptian fully good fair, 16.20.

The traffic receipts of the Suez Canal Company for the period June 16 to June 22 amounted to 2,990,000 francs, as against 2,620,000 francs.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 635—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lausanne : The End in Sight.

The report that all outstanding questions between Greece and Turkey had been settled at Lausanne last Friday, and had been included in a definite agreement, prepared public opinion for the subsequent announcement on Monday morning that a settlement had been reached by the Allied Powers and Turkey on the questions of the debt and the evacuation of Constantinople. The ground has thus been cleared for the signature of the Peace Treaty, which it is expected will take place early next week. On the question of the currency in which coupons of the Ottoman Debt are to be paid a compromise has been effected by omitting the subject from the Treaty. The Allies waive their claim for a Turkish declaration recognising the validity of the Decree of Moharrem, and for their own part maintain their contention that the private contracts remain in force and cannot be modified except by agreement between the Turkish Government and the bondholders. For Turkey no less than for the Allies it is a good thing to have peace in sight. For some little time to come the crux of the position in the Near and Middle East will be not so much the wording of the Treaty as the spirit in which the Turkish Government of the day sets about its ordinary work and tries to regulate its diplomatic relations. At the moment the Turkish authorities in Angora, whether holding official rank or pulling the strings to which official puppets respond, have absorbed too much Soviet doctrine into their system to be able to think or to see clearly. They may be showing a tendency to turn against those who have gained a subtle mastery over them, but the poison has done its work for the present, and probably a few violent shocks will have to be experienced before it is wholly eradicated.

Passports in Turkey.

While sympathy will be felt for the unfortunate victims of Turkish administrative vagaries, it is not altogether a bad thing that examples of Angora's ineptitude should be multiplied while the Lausanne Conference is still sitting. Certainly, if ridicule could kill a Government, the Angora experiment would have come to an end some time ago, and the seat of Government of Turkey would be in Constantinople, where at least there are buildings adapted for the transaction of official business, and possibly a sufficient number of trained officials available for the transaction of routine business. There will naturally be no question of transferring the Government to Constantinople while the latter city is in Allied occupation; but it is to be hoped that the drawbacks of the Anatolian town and the administrative blunders connected with its name will compel the Turks to make Constantinople once more the capital. What has happened in regard to the prohibition laws and, more latterly, the passport regulations, suggests that the Angora Administration is at the mercy of ignorant officials, from whose blunders the country has to be extricated with as much "face-saving" as can be contrived. This system might satisfy a native tribe in Central Africa, but must be galling to the self-respect of educated Turks, who are inclined to rank national dignity as high as independence.

Roumanian Politics.

The break that has recently taken place between the Peasants' Party and the National or Transylvanian Party is an interesting incident in Roumanian politics. Opposition to M. Bratianu's Liberal Government has been the chief bond hitherto between the two parties, and the close co-operation since last March has not produced any marked political success. At a congress of the Peasants' Party held towards the end of May the Executive was charged to open negotiations with the National Party with the view to fusion. Accordingly, a formal statement of the Peasants' political creed was drawn up and sent to Dr. Maniu, the leader of the Transylvanians, with a view to his endorsement of it as a basis for the formation of a single party. Dr. Maniu replied by a brief statement of his own party's creed, emphasising its aim at national solidarity, and stating that if the Peasants' Party proposed fusion on the basis of class divisions, there could be no question of negotiations to that end. The Peasants' Executive replied curtly by determining the co-operation between the two parties and reserving to itself complete freedom of action. The sensible stand taken by the Nationalists against the particularist pretensions of the Peasants' Party foreshadows, it

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is hoped, a more practical line of action in political affairs. Nothing has been more disappointing in Roumanian politics than the failure of the Transylvanians to make themselves an effective force in new Roumania. Their negative policy has entirely misfired. By separating themselves from the Peasants' Party, whose attitude towards the Monarchy is not above suspicion, they will be free to make a bid for the support of all Roumanians who hold that the time has come for policies rather than personal ambitions to determine the course of Roumanian politics.

The Little Entente.

Representatives of the Little Entente are to meet this month at Sinaia, the summer quarters of the Roumanian Court and Government, and it is understood that they will discuss the attitude of the three countries towards Hungary and Bulgaria. Much has happened in the former country to perpetuate the distrust with which it is regarded by its neighbours. The Little Entente was formed for purposes of self-defence against Hungary, and its mere existence, it might be thought, would be sufficient guarantee against any aggressive action on the part of the Budapest Government. But the main cause of trouble is that Hungary is divided against itself. Possibly the whole nation is at one in resenting the terms of peace imposed upon it; but only a section is prepared to commit national suicide by adopting a course of action that would inevitably bring down upon the whole people the vengeance of their neighbours. It is quite possible that the story of plots lose nothing in the telling, whether the information comes from foreign sources or from political opponents of the Government within; but no one can claim that the position in Hungary is a satisfactory one from the point of view of European peace. The Little Entente, therefore, may well feel justified in examining from time to time the details of its attitude towards Hungary. It should impress, however, upon the individual members that its real object is to remedy conditions in Hungary, and not to make them worse. Consequently, the physical force embodied in the Little Entente should not be abused for the exasperation of Magyar subjects of the Succession States. As far as Bulgaria is concerned, the rather chilling reception accorded to the new Government has been followed by formal recognition. The Bulgarians would probably have been much more impressed by a detached attitude, which would have argued that nothing happening in Bulgaria could affect the peace of the Balkans in view of the solidarity of her neighbours, and that these could, therefore, afford to let the future decide whether the change in Government was good or bad for Bulgaria herself.

International Loan to Greece.

It is satisfactory to learn that the arrangements for a loan to Greece to enable her to cope with the refugee problem are nearing completion. The Council of the League of Nations has, largely at the instance of Dr. Nansen, decided to lend its support for an international loan, which will be made to a special Refugee Bureau charged with the supervision of the plans for relief measures. In our issue of February 15 reference was made to certain works that might be undertaken in the Vardar and Struma valleys, which would not only give employment to a large number of refugee families, but would also reclaim land on which they will ultimately be able to support themselves. It is most desirable that the system of giving doles, whether of money or of food, should be terminated at the earliest possible moment, in the interests of the recipients. Where families are without male adults the doles will have to be continued, but the object to be aimed at should be the absorption as soon as possible of the able-bodied refugees into the economic life of the nation as producers. The area of Greece is not so large that a million refugees can be easily assimilated, owing to the extent of ground required for pasturage, which cannot be converted to any large extent to agricultural purposes without prejudice to the pastoral population. The problem, however, will be met to a certain extent by large reclamations of waste or swamp land.

Palestine.

In his speech at the annual dinner of the Central Asian Society Lord Milner laid stress on an aspect of the Palestine question which has often been insisted upon in these columns. The Arabs are exercised over what they have been told is going to happen; they are unable to point to any serious disabilities under the British Administration. Lord Milner let his audience understand that he regarded it as out of the question that there should be any immediate handing over of the country to the Arabs. It is certainly not going to be handed over to a Jewish minority. Great Britain is in duty bound to provide the disinterested Government which can keep the peace between the different sections of the population. The analogy of Irak, freed from the minorities problem, does not hold good; and the Arabs must reconcile themselves to taking a gradually increasing part in the Administration until such time as impartial government is assured without the direct participation of British officials.

The Indian Debate.

The interrupted debate on Indian affairs was concluded last week, and the majority in support of Lord Reading's action in certifying the salt tax was sufficiently above the normal figure to show that it was not determined by merely party considerations. The debate was necessarily discursive, and, in the absence of any luminous summing up, we anticipate that its real significance will not be immediately grasped in Indian circles; but its general effect is to show that the House of Commons maintains the position which we have consistently urged. The House is responsible for the new Constitution, and there was no hint of that "reaction" which Indian politicians imagine on every possible occasion; but, at the same time, there was no sign of any disposition to be hustled into the further action on which those politicians profess to have set their hearts. The Constitution is there to be worked, not tinkered; in due course it will be amended in the light of experience; and the condition of further advance is the successful working of the institutions which exist, rather than the eloquence or ingenuity with which their defects are put forward.

The British-Indian Union.

What is most needed just now is that as one of the speakers urged in the debate, all men of goodwill should get together to make the new Constitution a practical success, and from this point of view we welcome the appearance of the British-Indian Union, which was inaugurated publicly last week to promote friendship and understanding between the two countries. As to the credentials of the Union, it is perhaps sufficient to say that the President is the Duke of Connaught, the Nestor of the new India, while among the other speakers on the occasion were the Maharaja of Alwar and the Jam Sahib of Nawanagar. The Duke went straight to essentials, as he usually does. England and India,

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he urged, have a common object in the happiness and prosperity of both countries. They have had misunderstandings, but misunderstandings are things to be cleared away, not cherished. Much has been accomplished; but much remains to be done, and increase of mutual knowledge is the true line of advance. The Union cannot fail to accomplish much useful work if it adheres to the principles put forward by its President.

Indians in the Army.

The Indian Legislative Assembly was not at its best on the occasion of the debate on the "Indianisation" of the Army. As our readers know, Lord Rawlinson has done a very great deal to enable Indians to receive the King's Commission and to demonstrate in practice their ability to lead, as well as to command. The facilities offered are at present in excess of the demand, for the admissions offered to Sandhurst are filled only with great difficulty, and that by lowering the educational standard required; but the Assembly was not deterred by such facts from asking for more. As is usual on such occasions, the demand was made most loudly by representatives of the South, which has forgotten most of what it once knew about military affairs; and we may fairly set against their insistence the view put forward recently by Dr. Mullick, of Bengal, that the rate of "Indianisation" now depends less on the Commander-in-Chief than on the readiness of Indian parents to send their best boys into the Army, and to allow them enough to maintain their honourable position in it.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

A Week of Sport.

After the most ungallant show for the earlier cricket, tennis, and racing, the sun last week repented, and in the last few days fairly burned itself out for the sake of Henley and of Wimbledon. So exultingly, indeed, did it try to make up for lost time that on Saturday we reached 91 in the shade. At Henley it was one of the most delightful years, and not, as at Wimbledon, without its surprises. No one, for instance, expected the defeat in the Diamonds of the American Mr. Hoover—perhaps we had rated a little too high this fetish of American efficiency; and most people thought Pembroke, Cambridge, would get the Grand Challenge, instead of which they were beaten by a third of a length by Thames. However, it was all very glorious, with more people there than ever.

At Wimbledon things took their course inexorably. In the Ladies' Final Miss McKane could not get more than four games out of sixteen against Mlle. Lenglen, whose skill is so wonderful as to make the Press attacks upon her a little crude and, in any case, superfluous; and the Men's Singles was taken off with ease by the American, Mr. Johnston, who lost only one set in the whole of his playing. People talk of Lenglen and of Johnston as machines, but it is an absurd kind of compliment. About both of them there is a relentless humanity; I suppose it is because their beauty is rather classical than romantic—in other words, they have succeeded in attaining glory at the expense of death—that their accuracy is accounted to them an unexciting virtue. It was because the two "children" of Wimbledon, Miss Austin and Miss Colyer, possessed in such wild abundance the opposite virtues to those of Lenglen and Johnston—they smiled at and smashed for death or glory equally—that the sentimental crowd took them to its thrilling heart.

A British record was broken at Stamford Bridge on Saturday when E. H. Liddell, the Scottish champion did the hundred in 9 7-10 sec., the previous record being 9 4-5 sec.

The Dockers' Strike.

The unusual feature about the dock strike that is now taking place in many parts of the country is the disregard by the men of their leaders' advice. Actually the dispute centres round the figures prepared by the Board of Trade to estimate the cost of living—an index by which the men agreed nine months ago to abide. Reductions in wages based on these figures have been proposed, but rejected by the men. The strikers have, in short, broken their word.

Naturally, the whole Press of the country is against the men. Practically every journal looks at the matter from a severely moral aspect, and takes the vital point of the case to be the acceptance nine months ago of the index figure. But surely this is a little hard on men whose margin of life does not allow for the indulgence of nice moralities; surely the accuracy or inaccuracy of that index figure is the vital point. No one knows better than the wife of the docker what the cost of living is, and when, in this very hot weather, the announcement is suddenly made to him that his wages are to be reduced by five or six shillings, well—what he says about the gentlemen at the Board of Trade who prepare the statistics which show that he should be able to buy more beer had perhaps better not be related.

The Small-pox Scare.

The scare of small-pox, which is now being widely canvassed, is not without its amusing side. But first the matter should be viewed seriously. The Ministry of Health has become quite impressed with its own statistics, and even goes to the length of saying that "there is a distinct risk of an outbreak of a serious character." But apparently the Ministry is satisfied that in vaccination is an adequate remedy. The trouble is: How to get people to be vaccinated. This is where the entertainment comes in. Individualistic and liberty-loving journals like the *Morning Post* are all for compulsory Socialism in this matter; and we hear strange phrases from them like "anti-social" individuals, the interests of "the whole community," and so forth. Others, more moderate, but perhaps not more effective, suggest a propaganda campaign on behalf of vaccination, which has fallen of recent years into some disrepute. Undoubtedly, the chief bugbear of the State authorities is the indolence, not the hostility, of the public; but one really cannot see a vaccination propaganda cutting much ice, even in this tropical weather. It is the way of the English to put off

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precautions until the time of panic; the people who regularly go to the dentist before their teeth ache are far fewer than they would have us believe.

The Bank Rate.

I expect that my colleague "Commentator" will elsewhere explain the inner meaning of the rise in the Bank rate, which advanced last week from 3 to 4 per cent. What was interesting from the layman's point of view was the surprise expressed by most people that the present moment should have been chosen for the change and the difficulty of finding out how precisely it will affect business. However, it is not for us ordinary people, who are unmoved by all this jargon about "cheap" and "dear" money, to worry about it.

A National Theatre.

There are sensitive men in the House of Lords, and it was obvious a day or two ago when, during a discussion on the desirability of a State subvention for the drama, humiliation was expressed at our neglect of the drama compared with the Continental attitude. For a time, it is true, the debate ran rather off the lines when time was wasted over a proposal to raise a theatre at Stratford-on-Avon in memory of Shakespeare; but, at least, some of the Lords saw that, to have a "national" theatre, we must have a chain of theatres in all the densely populated towns. A local memorial to Shakespeare at Stratford could no more touch the dramatic life of the nation than, say, the movement at Glastonbury touches its musical life. Even a theatre in London devoted to Shakespeare would not be sufficient recognition; his plays should permeate the whole community.

Of course, the times, in the Government's view, were too hard for the granting of money to the drama; perhaps they will always in this country be too hard.

The University Match.

Although Oxford, because of their possession of eight Old Blues, ought to have this year's match at Lord's in their keeping, the result, quite apart from the reservation which it is always necessary to make about "nerves," cannot easily be foreseen. I write before to-day's play, and consequently lay myself open to the charge of being foolish. But, speaking generally, there is little doubt that the two sides this year are below the usual level. The fielding especially is, so far, said to have been mediocre; the batting certainly has been very in and out; and of the bowlers on either side, only G. O. Allen has genius. Men like Ashton and Lowry may turn the day for Cambridge; but if they fail, Oxford ought to be able to get enough runs to win. Oxford have won only once since 1914, and they have some terrible memories to efface.

The Eton and Harrow match, which takes place at the end of this week, is a very different affair, because everybody, except Etonians, wants Harrow to win. Harrow have not won since goodness knows when, and lovers of schoolboy cricket have grown quite sentimental about the fact.

The Traffic Problem.

Considerable apprehensions have for some time been entertained by the experts on the dimensions to which the problem of traffic in London has grown; and it would appear that the present heat-wave is directing more urgently the attention of the public upon it. It is quite possible, for instance, nowadays to consume twenty-five minutes in getting by bus from Liverpool Street to the far side of the Bank; and one has the certainty of time for reflection by centres like the Mansion House, Piccadilly Circus, or Kingsway. The question is a huge one, and though one hears rumours of the abolition of horse-driven traffic, of new motor routes, of one-route roads, and so on, it is fairly universally agreed that there is but one solution—the creation of a supreme traffic authority. At the moment, of course, there are hundreds of authorities, acting quite independently of each other, and, it is sometimes hinted, a little maliciously towards one another. The conciliation of the existing authorities will not be easy; but it is one of the few Socialist schemes which really should be tried. When the drivers of the traffic themselves see no solution, it is time that the State stepped in.

Sunday Games.

The Sabbath in this country has long ceased to be regarded as a day of rest; even those who do not use it publicly to take part in ordinary-day pursuits are not ashamed to follow in secret their pagan fancies. The Puritan ideal is, in short, for practical purposes, dead. But, as ever, we are slow to incorporate realities into our institutions, and the present discussion over the desirability of playing games on Sundays has discovered the existence of many people to whom an officially sanctioned overthrowing of the ideal of the Nonconformist Sabbath is objectionable. A campaign to stop games on Sundays is, in fact, in full swing—games for the poor, that is, because the rich and the middle-class have for some time indulged their various bents. But these campaigners are sadly in the minority; and their reasoning is not strengthened by some recent words of the Dean of Exeter, who said: "The Puritan view of Sunday is not binding on all Christian people." That dictum should be good enough for the Catholics and the Anglicans; for the millions of others it was, of course, superfluous. No doubt we are becoming decadent; but, then, we always were; certainly we are going to be merrier than we have been since the Reformation.

ALTER EGO.

The Bengal Legislative Council has rejected the Government Bill designed to authorise preventive officers to conduct searches in cases of suspected illicit manufacture of salt without the presence of police officers, as at present required.

On July 3, at the Viceregal Lodge, at Simla, the Viceroy bestowed the gold Kaisar-i-Hind Medal, with bar, upon Mrs. Starr, and the medal upon Khan Bahadur Khulikhan and Risaldar Mosul Baz Khan, who assisted her in her rescue of Miss Ellis.

A Reuter's message states that, with the approval of the Persian Government, two of the latest two-seater fighting aeroplanes of the British Air Force flew to Teheran last week from Baghdad on a complimentary visit.

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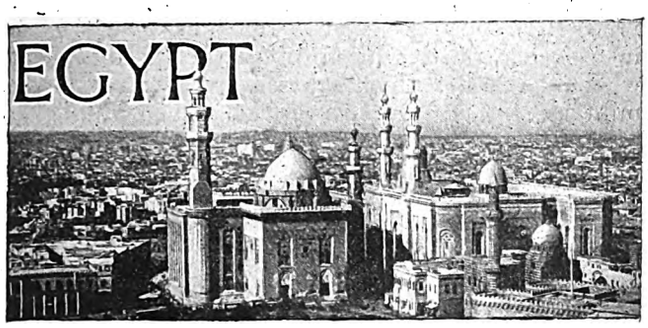

Cairo, June 30.

Egyptian Martial Law.

Egypt can seldom have known a week so productive of legislation as the one just past. The Council of Ministers, sitting at Alexandria on Wednesday afternoon, approved no fewer than ten new laws, besides a number of important regulations. The most important of the new statutes was that constituting an Egyptian code of martial law—to which I referred in my last letter—as a necessary forerunner to the promulgation of the Indemnity Act and the abolition of British martial law. Although the new Act is throughout of a conservative character and limits the power of the authorities to take exceptional measures to a far greater extent than is usual in most countries, it has met with a good deal of criticism in the Arabic Press. It is in some ways unfortunate that the new enactment became popularly known in anticipation as Egyptian martial law. Had it been called the Egyptian Riot Act the present misapprehensions regarding its scope and purpose might well have never arisen. Martial law has during the last nine years come to mean to the Egyptians nothing more nor less than the system by which British control of the country is exercised. So, in fact, it is, but it is a pity that sight has been lost of other aspects of the matter. It has not been generally recognised that every Government may be confronted with exceptional circumstances for which the ordinary civil code does not make adequate provision, and which demand the exercise of wider powers than are enjoyed by the authorities in normal times. There has even been in some quarters the belief that the Egyptian martial law code was to become operative as soon as British martial law was removed—that it was, in fact, to supersede the latter. Given this belief, the existing feeling regarding the new statute is quite understandable. Unpopular as the present system of British control is, it has not affected one in a thousand of the inhabitants of this country. But nobody knows better than the Egyptians themselves what would be the probable result of giving to an Egyptian executive the almost unlimited powers now entrusted to the Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces here. Fears of the likely consequences of such a step are entirely comprehensible. It is to be hoped that, now that the purpose and limitations of the new measure have been made public, the Egyptians will understand that the new decrees do not mean simply the exchange of whips for scorpions.

Other New Ordinances.

The other two most important statutes approved on Wednesday were an Act dealing with vagabondage and a regulation regarding passports. The former is designed in the interests of public security, to prevent the entry into this country of refugees and persons with no visible means of support, and also to deal with undesirables actually resident here. The passports regulation, the text of which has not yet been published, it having been found that some slight modifications were necessary, practically confirms the rules regarding the issue of passports which have been in force for the last nine years under British martial law.

It is not universally realised why this sudden large crop of legislation should be necessary now, just before the Egyptian Parliament will come into existence and undertake the work of statute framing on constitutional lines. The reason is, of course, that, owing to the peculiar circumstances existing in this country since the outbreak of war in 1914, there has been neither the need nor the occasion to enact laws to meet the changed conditions which have arisen here, as in every country in the world. New problems, as they have arisen, have been solved by issuing proclamations under British martial law. Hence there are many powers now exercised under that code which, unless provided for by some other means before its abolition, will vanish automatically. It is to prevent that sudden lapse of necessary powers that the new statutes have been framed and made operative.

The Conspiracy Trial.

At last the conspiracy trial is approaching its end. The defence has called over sixty witnesses, and will probably conclude its evidence on Tuesday. Mr. Silley, leading counsel for the accused, expects to address the Court on Wednesday, or, rather, to begin his address on that day, for it is improbable that he will be able to sum up the enormous mass of most conflicting evidence in one session, although, in order to get through the proceedings, which have been going on since April 5 last, the Court sits continuously, with a break of a few minutes only, from 8.30 a.m. to after 2 p.m. daily. The total cost of the trial will be enormous; a recent estimate put the figure at £25,000, and this was probably on the conservative side.

Departures.

The steady stream of applications by foreign officials to be allowed to leave the Government service shows no diminution, and is causing very real concern to the Egyptians, who realise how valuable have been the services of the men whom they are losing. It is to be hoped that the tardy awakening to this fact will speed up the conclusion of an agreement, satisfactory to both parties, which will enable officials who would otherwise throw their hands in now to remain a few years longer, in the knowledge of exactly how they will stand when

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.**

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the agreed further period of service is concluded. Such a scheme is now being considered by the British officials themselves. Its nature is being kept extremely secret, but, so far as I can gather, it is considered fairly satisfactory.

Among the well-known Anglo-Egyptians who will be leaving us during the next few weeks is Mr. J. F. G. Hopkins, Director of the Bureau of Commerce and Industry, which department he has developed into a model of efficiency and utility to the industries of the country, as well as, incidentally, providing one of the most interesting exhibitions in Cairo. Another forthcoming departure is that of Lieut.-Colonel C. M. Hickley, C.M.G., D.S.O., Director of Inland Navigation in the Ministry of Communications. Before the War, Colonel Hickley was in the Sudan Government Service. During the campaigns in Palestine and Syria he was Assistant Director of Railway Transport at General Headquarters, being the link between Sir Walter Campbell, the Deputy Quartermaster-General, and Sir George Macauley, at the head of the Railway Administration. In 1919, when Sir George was appointed adviser to the newly formed Ministry of Communications, he secured the transfer to his Ministry of Colonel Hickley, to take over the inland transport branch of the Ministry.

An outgoing official who has been even more in the public eye than either of those just mentioned is Hopkinson Pasha, Director-General of the Alexandria Municipality, and perhaps the most criticised man in Egypt. Inhabitants of Alexandria are never tired of bewailing the condition of their city. Its smells, they claim, are supreme in the Levant, their only rival the odours of Smyrna. For all this and much more Hopkinson Pasha is held responsible. Every dead cat and every decaying fish-head is metaphorically laid at his door. And nobody can deny that Alexandria is an exceptionally nidorous town. But for this fact neither the Director-General of the Municipality nor his staff is to blame. The inhabitants themselves, with their detestation of hygienic measures and their indifference to cleanliness, present an insuperable obstacle to hopes of realising a cleaner Alexandria. Since 1917 enormous improvements have been made in the general condition of the city, especially where the roads, which suffered greatly from heavy military traffic, are concerned. The Municipal budget has been retrieved from its state of chronic deficit, and there is now the possibility of undertaking extensive new improvement works of all kinds which, without wise and careful management during the past few years, would have been quite impossible. Fortunately, Hopkinson Pasha's shoulders have been broad enough to bear all the unconsidered blame laid upon them. It is generally recognised, by all who know Alexandria and its conflicting national rivalries, which do so much to prevent effective action by the City Fathers, that the Municipality, under its retiring Director-General, has during the past few years accomplished very much good work.

I referred some weeks back to the impending departure of Mr. Harry Aspinall, secretary since its foundation of the Turf Club, Cairo. He left on Tuesday for England, and there was a very big gathering at the station to see him off. A new secretary has not yet been appointed, Mr. J. H. C. Brougham is filling the post temporarily.

Sales of Furniture.

One result of the British exodus is an unusual number of sales of furniture. Good furniture is usually very hard to buy in Egypt, except at prohibitive prices, and solid, comfortable English furniture has hitherto been almost unobtainable. The British officials' houses, which are remarkable for the comfort of their appointments, have nearly all been furnished from home. Now a lot of really excellent stuff is being sold by auction, and much of it is going at very low prices. It is a rare opportunity for newly married couples setting up homes of their own; but of those there are very few nowadays among the British community in Egypt. Instead of settling down in Egypt, nearly everybody one meets is talking of settling up and getting out of the country.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, June 15.

Excavations.

The excavations at Beisan organised by the University of Pennsylvania have been renewed. About a fortnight ago Dr. Fisher, who is in charge of the expedition, was rewarded by the discovery of important Egyptian remains in the shape of considerable buildings apparently used as a garrison and arsenal. A large stock of arrow-heads were found, bound up in bundles of ten, and, most important, two monumental inscriptions, belonging to Seti I. and his famous son, Rameses II. These *stelae* give details of military dispositions, and refer to many towns on both sides of the Jordan. The chief historical value in the results of the excavations so far is the proof of Egyptian occupation of Syria extending over five hundred years.

The British School of Archæology have also been busy in the field. They have just finished work at Tantura (half-way between Cæsarea and Athlit, and the site of classical Dora). They have discovered indications that there was here a considerable city of the same age and scale as Askalon.

King Hussein and England.

Commenting on the published terms of the Anglo-Arab Treaty, *Mirât esh-Sharq*, a Jerusalem

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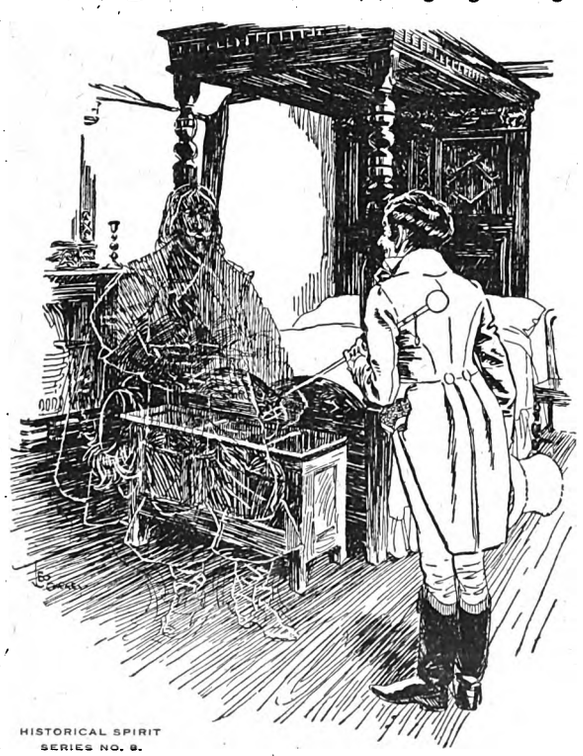

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Arab (Christian) paper, writes in reference to Article 2 :—"The points referring to the protection of the civil and religious rights of the Arabs are word for word identical with the second part of the Balfour Declaration; and whoever examines them will at once perceive that there is no reference to the political rights of which the Balfour Declaration deprives the Arabs. This Treaty supports and confirms the Balfour Declaration with the express consent of King Hussein." The paper goes on to stress the obligations which King Hussein has assumed to recognise Great Britain's peculiar position in Palestine: "this is its position as holder of a Mandate whose object is to set up in Palestine a National Home for the Jews; in other words—were it not for the Jewish National Home, England would not be in Palestine at all, and so the acknowledgment of this position is the explicit recognition of the Jewish National Home." The *Mirât esh-Sharq* then discusses the clause obliging King Hussein to exert his influence on behalf of England. "What influence can King Hussein have over Palestine except a religious influence and that borne by virtue of his distinguished family, which is held to be directly descended from that of Mohammed? So he is to exert this influence to enable his partner in the Treaty to attain his purpose in Palestine—the building up of a National Home for the Jews!"

June 22.

The Lake Huleh Incident.

As was to be expected, the Palestinian malcontents and their sympathisers have tried hard to make political capital out of the murder of the three British police at Lake Huleh, and exaggerated stories are still in circulation, the object of them being to make it appear that the outrage was directed against the High Commissioner himself. The facts were exactly as explained last week. The criminals themselves, under examination, explained how they were hard pressed by the French authorities in Syria, crossed the frontier, and on being suddenly confronted by a body of soldiers thought that these, too, were on their tracks, and so fired in "self-defence." And this can be accepted as the true version.

The Murder of Captain Swann.

The serious impression caused by this incident was deepened by the murder, last Friday, of Captain Swann, the Paymaster of the British Gendarmerie, who met his death in the course of one of the now alarmingly frequent cases of highway robbery. This was near Ludd. The murderer, still at large, is a ruffian with a long record of crime, unparalleled, probably, even in Palestine. His last feat was to take up a position on a frequented road, hold up every passer-by, take them off to a neighbouring cave, rob them and leave them all there till his victims reached the total of seventy; and not till then did he release them and allow the hue and cry to be raised. Reports of similar acts of violence on a smaller scale frequently reach us from almost every quarter of Palestine. It is absurd to put these down to political discontent, as has been done by certain elements of the Arab Press. A violent outcry is being raised against the inefficiency of the police. Palestine is certainly, to all appearances, heavily equipped in the way of military and police protection in proportion to its population; but the present spasm of lawlessness cannot be said to be fostered by the inefficiency of the police so much as by the admirable suitability of the geography and the landscape. Palestine has always been excellently adapted to bandit warfare.

The Arab Congress.

The "Sixth Arab Congress," which began last Saturday at Jaffa, has completed its sessions. It is not easy to estimate the precise weight and importance of this body and its findings. These Congresses began in December, 1920, with the meeting at Haifa of thirty-six politically minded Arabs, since when they have gradually increased their number of delegates until at the last meeting there were a hundred and fourteen. They are the only articulate body of Arabs in Palestine, but whether their findings can be regarded as representing the considered opinion of Palestine Arabdom as a whole is questionable. The Congress first met as a body of like-minded men with a common grievance; and they have enlarged their membership by co-opting further like-minded Arabs. They have never disagreed among themselves in fundamentals, and such differences of opinion as have arisen have been mostly of the nature of whether some policy or other ought to be applied promptly, come what may, or whether it should be applied after some forethought. There has, of course, never been any question of "election" to these Congresses in the conventional sense (one still remains utterly sceptical as to the feasibility of popular general elections in Palestine, no matter for what purpose), and there has so far been no clear proof that what this Congress decides becomes thereby common Arab policy (the Election boycott is a possible exception); for example, the last meeting of the Congress determined on a "voluntary" levy of two piastres a head, per month, on all Arabs, to send a Delegation to America, to open a Palestinian Arab Bureau in London, to open branches of the Moslem-Christian Association in every village and town, to write a patriotic history of the rise of the Arab movement—none of which things (owing to the failure of the first) has been realised.

This last Congress passed twenty-eight resolutions which followed expected lines. The most important of them are the repudiation of the Anglo-Arab Treaty, and the decision to refuse to pay all taxes "on the English principle of no taxation without representation"! The question whether this last resolution should be applied at once or be referred to a committee, occupied a large proportion of the Congress's time, and it was decided by a very small majority to take the more moderate line. The assertion was made by one of the members that whereas in pre-War days taxation worked out at ten shillings a head per annum, it was now three pounds.

The Arab Nominees.

Nothing further has happened in the matter of the resignation of the ten Arab nominees to the

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newly devised Palestine Advisory Council. The formal grounds of their resignation have been published. They are :—

(1) The Government did not issue a new proclamation as it promised, but rested content with publishing in the *Official Gazette* the Privy Council's statement about the Constitution of the Palestine Council.

(2) This Order showed that the Palestine Council resembled the Legislative Council in its numbers and constitution as laid down in the Palestine Constitution, as though the latter still remained in force; whereas the whole nation had opposed it and taken no part in the elections.

(3) The Council consists in the main of mere nominated members, whereas the two Jewish members are elected representatives of all the Jews in Palestine.

The Emigration of Jews.

Jewish circles are taking alarm at the considerable emigration of young able-bodied Jews from the country. The emigration offices are being thronged by Jews from all parts of the country seeking visas to leave Palestine as quickly as possible. Work is hard to find, prospects are not rosy, and ideals alone fail to satisfy the needs of the body. An entire Jewish Colony, Beer Tobiah (one of the most southerly Jewish settlements, not far from Ashdod) is being depopulated, and the few, about ten, surviving elderly colonists, unable to work the ground themselves, are letting tracts of it to the neighbouring Arabs.

The Circassian "Marriage by Capture."

Beyond Jordan is a community of Circassians, stationed there many years ago by the Turks as a buffer-garrison against the inroads of the desert Bedouin. Among their native customs they brought with them that of "marriage by capture." The Circassians have been largely recruited for the police-force on both sides of the Jordan. A few days ago one of these Transjordanian Circassian police, a sergeant, making use of the custom and the opportunity, secured the help of some of his fellow police, attacked a house and captured a wealthy Circassian widow, who had come from Damascus to the wilds of Transjordania to look after some property. The police-sergeant ran off with her to Kerak, where he proposed to finish off the ceremony. Unfortunately he had omitted one thing, which is, curiously, regarded as essential even in "marriage by capture"—to secure the lady's consent. Appeal was made to the authorities, and King Abdullah ordered the arrest of the would-be groom, and, still more curiously, marked the beginning of the era of Transjordanian independence by decreeing that in future this Circassian "marriage by capture" was forbidden.

PERSIA.

Teheran, May 25.

The Elections.

Public interest during the past fortnight has centred almost entirely round the elections for the new Parliament, which are now in full swing throughout the country. Voting in Teheran closed on Thursday, but the result is not yet known, and in view of the fact that there are several hundred candidates for the twelve seats allotted to the Capital it would be rash to prophesy who will be elected, though it is expected that most of the representatives in the present Mejliss will be returned again.

The Northern Oil Concession.

The question of the Northern Oil Concession has again been debated in the Mejliss, and several of the clauses have been adopted. One provides that the Concession must be granted to an independent American Company, and another that one of the Northern provinces, to be decided later, be excluded from the Concession, the fifth province to form a separate Concession to be granted to a purely Persian company for exploitation with Persian capital. The duration of the Concession to be granted to the American Company is to be at least forty, and not more than fifty, years from the date of its ratification by the Mejliss, and the concession-holder must agree to grant the Persian Government, on ratification by the Parliament, a loan of at least ten million dollars to be paid through an American Bank, on terms to be decided later, such as to be most advantageous to the Persian Government.

A Persian Concession.

In connection with the Concession to be granted to a Persian Company, Haji Moin ut Tujjar Bushiri, who has recently been granted the Concession for red oxide in the island of Ormuz in the Persian Gulf, has formed a Company with a view to applying for the Concession for the province. He agrees to pay the Government either twelve per cent. on the gross output, instead of the ten per cent. originally proposed, or twenty per cent. instead of sixteen per cent. on the net profits, as Royalties, on condition that the extra percentage be devoted towards public instruction.

Non-Payment Again.

The Police Force in Kazvin recently went on strike as a protest against the non-payment of their salaries for several months past, and the Military in garrison there have been reinforced by a detachment from Teheran, and are patrolling the streets. Everything is quite quiet.

Sardar Sepah.

The Minister of War is attempting to stop the papers publishing laudatory articles praising him and his work. He reminds the Press, in a notice in the semi-official organ *Iran* that the most sacred of his duties is to maintain order in the country and ensure tranquillity and happiness for the population, and that he has no intention of diverting a single moment to questions of minor details which do not concern the public welfare. He requests the Press, therefore, to abstain from citing him on every possible occasion in future, and to confine themselves to their much more important rôle as educators of the nation. The *Iran*, commenting on this, sees in it a fresh proof of the earnestness and straightforwardness of Sardar Sepah, and praises the spirit of his sacrifices for the good of the country, which he has, by his efforts and sterling work, caused to taste the totally new savour of security and tranquillity.

Russian Moneys.

The recent British Note to the Soviet Government caused a certain amount of uneasiness and excitement among the Russian concerns in Resht and Kazvin, and they immediately withdrew any balances that they had with the Imperial Bank, presumably acting under instructions from Moscow, fearing the possible consequences of the Note on relations between the Russian and British Governments.

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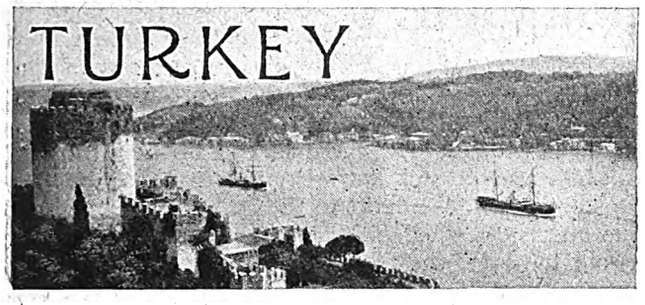

Constantinople, June 26.

The Russian Refugees.

Our local domestic affairs are, for the time being, going on peacefully enough. A further advance is being made in what at one time appeared to be an insoluble problem, that of the Russian refugees. A couple of years ago it was estimated that there were 120,000 to 150,000 refugees from Russia here. A few months ago that number was stated to have been reduced to about 12,000, the rest having been accepted by Yugoslavia or Bulgaria or having returned to Russia. Since the beginning of June, the emigration season to the U.S.A. has restarted, and on the three steamers which have left for New York, emigrants from Constantinople have numbered about 1,000, chiefly Russians. Three more steamers are announced to leave in the near future, and more Russians are busy completing the necessary formalities in preparation for leaving.

Sport.

British sport, military and civil, is flourishing. The Constantinople cricket club and the various unit clubs in the Army have a full list of fixtures, which have provided some good matches. The British Army Sports meeting on Friday and Saturday week at Moda was a great success, and a large number of civil and military guests contributed to a gay scene, and had the pleasure of seeing some remarkably good performances, and of appreciating the value of a perfectly organised meeting, enlivened by the music of several military bands. The lawn tennis championship of Turkey is being arranged by a committee drawn chiefly from Army tennis circles, and will shortly take place on the British United Services Club courts at Harbie. The remnants of the Salonika Army, to the number of 32 officers and ex-officers, dined together for the third year in succession on June 22, the evening on which similar functions took place at the Hotel Cecil in London and in Cologne. Sir Charles Harington was the guest of honour, and cordial telegrams were exchanged with the late C.-in-C., General Sir G. F. Milne.

July 3.

The New Turkey.

In connection with the proceedings at Lausanne, a fact upon which too much emphasis cannot be laid, is that the Nationalist Turkey of June, 1923, is a quite different proposition from the Turkey of October, 1922. The apparent renaissance of military and political Turkey last autumn was a flash in the pan. The flash has gone out, and dust and ashes remain. The outburst of national enthusiasm and unity has degenerated to a sordid campaign of intrigue of Turk against Turk. The Army, which is the only trump in Angora's hand, has consistently grown weaker in numbers and spirit. The familiar phenomenon of general intriguing against general is repeating itself. Noureddin Pasha is in disgrace, Fevzi Pasha is not in good odour, widespread discontent reigns among all the officers at the suppression of their own political organisation. All ranks are either underpaid or not paid at all. Demobilisation of various classes is proceeding apace owing to the impossibility of feeding and paying the troops.

Politically, the new Turkey has played her two trumps, which have been promptly over-trumped. The bogey of the Moscow alliance has dissolved into thin smoke, and the hope of fundamental divisions between the Great Powers she destroyed herself by intransigeance on the External Debt questions. *Quem Deus vult perdere . . .*

That is the so-called Power with which Europe is wasting time in a huckstering bargain, which in tone reminds us of nothing so much as buying fish in an Oriental bazaar.

The Elections Farce.

The elections in Constantinople have been an eye-opener for those who have conscientiously tried to be more than just to the new Turkish Government. It is known that the spirit of Constantinople, even the Turkish part of it, is very lukewarm towards the Angora oligarchy owing to the few months' experience of its most unsatisfactory administration. The result of the elections last Thursday, however, shows that each of the fifteen candidates of the Government (Defence of Rights) party received more than 1,180 votes out of a possible 1,254, and of the twenty-six Independent candidates only eight received any votes at all, and of these, Noureddin Pasha, the Commander of the Army at Ismid, received the greatest number, viz., 100. The disparity is too ludicrous for words. The whole proceedings were an elaborate farce, and when we add that Noureddin Pasha has fallen into deep disgrace because he dared to put up his candidature on an Independent ticket, the present state of affairs will be admitted to be intolerable.

The Patriarchate.

Diplomacy is in process of finding a way out of the difficulty about the Patriarchate. The recent assault upon the Patriarch's person has been followed up by the threat of judicial proceedings involving the legality of the Patriarch's status *vis-à-vis* the Turkish Government and the validity of his excommunication of the turbulent M. Damianides, who is doubtless acting as the convenient tool of the Turkish authorities, to whom Mgr. Meletios is personally obnoxious. It is an open secret that the Greek Foreign Office at the present stage of affairs would welcome the sacrifice of personalities in order to avoid causes of friction with the Turkish Government, and has been pressing the Patriarch gracefully to withdraw from the scene. He has now yielded, and announced his intention of retiring to the Mylopotamos Monastery on Mount Athos. Without going into the political *pros* and *cons* of the affair, it seems a pity from the human side that his bold attempt at keeping his end up against great odds should have failed, but, if he has to go, he had better go now while there is some sort of check upon the Turkish passion for eliminating anything non-Turkish. The attitude of the Greek community towards their future in Constantinople is eloquently illustrated by the figures which have recently been published by the *Aksham*. According to this paper, 485 Greek business houses here have closed down since November 2 last, including 18 important firms which have ceased business altogether and 21 which have been transferred elsewhere.

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Near East Bookshelf.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

"ADMIRAL OF THE OCEAN-SEA." By Mary Johnston. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. net.)

This is a long, historical novel, dealing with the voyages of discovery made by Christopher Columbus and told through a Spaniard who accompanies him. It is written, as are all Miss Johnston's novels, with great detail and thoroughness, and with an air of authority. She shows Columbus as more than an ambitious explorer—as an idealist with a great vision The book is lighted up by the admiration with which the great man and the prophetic vision which she shows him as possessing, have inspired the author. The first sight of unknown land and the sense of dreamlike peace which is felt on the landing in a new world are wonderfully described and remain in the memory.

This book might be found to be too long, but it cannot fail to impress by the imagination shown in the descriptions and by the spirit of enthusiasm in which it is written.

INDIAN HEROES.

"A TALE OF INDIAN HEROES: Being the Stories of the Mahabharata and Ramayana." By Flora Annie Steel. (London: Hutchinson. 10s. 6d. net.).

Mrs. Steel tells very simply tales from the Mahabharata and the Ramayana. She says that from these immense epics (the English translation of the Mahabharata fills thirty-two thick volumes) she has taken some of the "priceless gems" and hung them on "the central thread of pure gold" which runs through the stories. One would need to be a student of these ancient writings to be able to judge of Mrs. Steel's translation and selection, but the result is a book with much to stir the heart It will have a place on children's bookshelves beside the legends of Ancient Greece, stories from the Norse Sagas, the Irish legends, and the more merely human adventures of the Round Table knights and Charlemagne's Paladins. We do not mean that this is a book only for children, but the youthful imagination is quickly fired by accounts of deeds of courage, chivalry, and endurance, and this glimpse of the heroic age of an ancient land will introduce new warriors to the company of heroes.

In the Mahabharata we see virtues and faults, love and hate depicted on a vast and simplified scale. Mrs. Steel does not lay very much stress on what must be the deeply spiritual aspect of these epics—but, even in these briefly told adventures, it is impossible to miss the sense of seeing the individual struggle of the spirit reflected in the mighty doings of these warriors and incarnations of gods. We think that Mrs. Steel must have reproduced the feeling of the original very well in the description of the fateful battle of the heroes. We hear the thunder of the warring of beings more than human. We feel that sense of pre-ordained tragedy that broods over Regnarök and the horror of the inability of the most heroic to achieve against the will of the gods that darkens the Plains of Troy.

There is present in the Mahabharata that subtle element of tragedy which we find in so many of the great legends of the nations—the doubled bitterness of enmity that, but for the coincidences of fate, should have been love. Arjuna and Karna, who are brothers and do not know it, whose achievements are so nearly equal, fight to the end with unquenchable bitterness. When Karna is slain and the truth is told too late, the patient and just Yudistra cries despairingly, "O mother of five living sons, by thee have we been undone. Hadst thou not kept this secret, all things might have been attainable, even peace." But, whereas in most Western legends we should be left with the echo of hopeless regret—here it is silenced by the firm voice of Bhishma, "What has been is Fate. I counselled peace ever; but it was not written so."

Bhishma the Terrible—the grandsire—acting according to an ideal of renunciation and loyalty to which only an Eastern mind could attain, stands out as the greatest of these great figures.

Of the Ramayana Mrs. Steel says that it is "more poetical, less real . . . one feels in reading it that the really heroic age of India has passed." She gives the impression of being less interested in it. We are given, however, a great idea of its decorative qualities and the richness of its fantasy. Motives and character are subtler and more complicated than in the Mahabharata. There is more "illusion" and a more unreal world, full of demons and magic. We must be grateful to Mrs. Steel for this simply told account of the love of Râma and Sita and of the exploits of the "high-souled monkeys," under the guidance of the famous wise monkey Hunumân.

Even an outline such as this of these epics, which are famous throughout India, help to a better understanding of its people. We are left after reading it with many vivid, richly coloured pictures in the mind—such as that of Yudistra and the crafty Shakuni casting their dice, watched by the jewelled courtiers; or that of the weapons in mortal guise doing homage to the youthful Râma. And beyond this we are left with an impression of great space and distance, and of the depth of the ancient spiritual life of the people.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Road to Delhi." By R. J. Minney. (London: John Lane. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Key of Dreams: A Romance of the Orient." By L. Adams Beck. (London: Constable and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 12 (New Style).
June .29 (Old Style).
Dulkaada 27, 1341, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tamuz 28, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Princess Karageorgevitch has left Claridge's Hotel for Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Russell have arrived at 34, Half Moon Street from Egypt and America.

The Aga Khan is undergoing a cure at Aix, but has arranged to return to London on July 18.

Madame Davood Khan, the wife of the Persian Minister, has arrived in London from Teheran.

The Maharaj-Kumari of Kapurthala has arrived in London from Paris, and has joined the Maharaj-Kumar, who is staying at Claridge's.

The Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar has made good progress since his serious illness, and has now left London for treatment in Germany.

Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Haking arrived at Marseilles on July 8 in the P. and O. Company's Kaisar-i-Hind, on his way home from Egypt, and left by train for London.

Sir Prabashankar Pattani, Joint Administrator of the Bhavanagar State, has come to this country on three months' leave, and is staying at Meadowside, Cambridge Park, Twickenham.

Invitations to an "At Home" at 50, Grosvenor Street, to meet M. Vintila Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance, were issued for yesterday by the Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco.

Sir Herbert Samuel, G.B.E., High Commissioner for Palestine, will be the guest of the Maccabeans at a dinner to be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Thursday, July 26. Lord Rothschild, the President, will be in the chair.

Sir A. Hamilton Grant, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., will read a paper before the East India Association, entitled "The North-West Frontier of India," at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, next Monday, July 16, at 3.30 p.m. General Sir Edmund Barrow, G.C.B., G.C.S.I., will take the chair.

The Persian Minister held a reception at the Legation on July 4, when the guests included the Maharajah of Kapurthala, Prince Karamjit Singh of Kapurthala, the Spanish, Japanese, French, Italian, and German Ambassadors and their ladies, the Earl and Countess of Sandwich, Lord and Lady Terrington, Lady Joynson-Hicks, Sir Charles and Lady Greenway, Sir Ali and Lady Iman Sir Hugh Barnes, Sir E. Denison and Lady Ross, Lady Hanbury-Williams, Lady Henry, Madame Gulbenkian, Mrs. and Miss Tata, Mr. J. B. Lloyd, Colonel C. B. and Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Charles Hancock, and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Montgomery.

About 300 political prisoners in Egypt have been granted amnesties on the occasion of the abolition of martial law.

Owing to the non-arrival of the steamer from Jeddah the Egyptian *Mahmal*, or Holy Carpet, has been delayed at Suez on its journey from Cairo to Mecca.

Mr. Menahem Levy, the president of the Persian Zionist Association, is at present in Palestine in connection with a proposal that Persian Jews should be allowed to build a settlement on Jewish National Fund land. He is considering a suitable location for the settlement of a group of Persian Jews.

EGYPTIAN DECORATIONS FOR OFFICERS

The King has granted to the undermentioned officers permission to wear the insignia of the Fourth Class of the Order of the Nile, which decoration has been conferred on them by the King of Egypt in recognition of good services rendered during the recent operations in Southern and Western Darfur:—

Captain Stanley Lyndall Milligan, C.M.G., D.S.O., Highland Light Infantry; Captain Alfred Hastings St. George Hamersley, M.C., King's Shropshire Light Infantry, Officer Commanding the Egyptian Army Transport Corps; Captain Bramwell Henry Withers, Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), commanding 11th Sudanese, Egyptian Army; Lieutenant Falconer Craig, M.C., 3rd Hussars; Captain Francis Mussenden Whitmore-Smith, M.C., Queen's Bays (2nd Dragoon Guards); Lieutenant Roy Frank Eric Laidlaw, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment, attached to the Egyptian Army; and Captain William Edridge Yockney, 3rd Battalion, Wiltshire Regiment.

Sir Dorab Tata, the president of the Indian Olympic Association in 1920, has issued an appeal to the athletic associations of India and to lovers of sport generally to co-operate whole-heartedly with the Y.M.C.A. physical department towards making Indian representation at the Olympic Games of 1924 successful.

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THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1923.

EGYPT'S NEW ERA.

The publication last Thursday of an Indemnity Act and of a proclamation abrogating martial law will serve as a landmark in the political history of Egypt. Although there are certain points in Anglo-Egyptian relations still to be settled, at least it may now be definitely said that the future of the Egyptian people is in their own hands. That they are now in a position to choose their own representatives, to establish a free Parliamentary Government, is mainly due to the persistent wisdom of Lord Allenby; but, more latterly, due also to their own sense in refraining from such murders and demonstrations as made absolutely necessary the retention of martial law. The optimist, indeed, will find ground for his beliefs in the conduct of the Egyptians during the last few weeks, when concession after concession has been made to them. It is as a climax, an inevitable but very satisfactory climax, that the abrogation of martial law has come; and we congratulate Egypt, as we congratulate ourselves, upon the opportunity of fulfilling our promises. Great Britain can now stand clear, and the Egyptians are free to "run their own show." The political amnesty that has been proclaimed is complete but for those Egyptians, sentenced under martial law, who were convicted of common law crimes of a serious kind. Members of the Wafd have returned; Zaghloul Pasha himself may, if he wishes, go back to Egypt to conduct an electoral campaign. In short, the erstwhile extremists have unfettered permission to demonstrate their conversion to soberness during the last few months. Compared with this fact, which is really one for the imagination to seize upon—so remote did the possibility of its realisation appear but a year or two ago—the Indemnity Act and its accompanying convention are unimportant. They were, of course, highly necessary, but they do not radically affect the situation, and are notable mainly in that they show a wise head and a steady purpose in the person of the Egyptian Premier, Yehia Ibrahim Pasha. His worth is sufficiently proved by the mere fact that it was during his tenure of office that the hated, and, to tell the truth, hateful, exercise of martial law was finally abolished.

How this latest step will immediately affect Egypt is uncertain. Probably it will draw a dull kind of welcome and ensure a period of quiet until certain matters that are now obscure have been clarified. For this independence of Egypt is by no means the independence of which rebels dream; it resembles much more closely the independence which is thinly extracted by modern yet backward States in a closely knit scheme of things from powerful and watchful sovereignties. The people of Egypt cannot, for instance, change their Constitution—such power is reserved to the King alone. We are, further, not exactly clear as to how the High Commissioner stands to the King; the High Commissioner has the main effective force in the country, and it would seem, therefore, what can scarcely have been Great Britain's intention, that the power of the throne is dependent on the British Army's support. We have not been told, moreover, of the essential conditions of Britain's remaining in Egypt—the conditions affecting the position and strength of the British forces, the control of Egyptan finance, the judicial status of foreigners, the capitulations, and the government of the Sudan. Such questions were originally to have been settled before the path was made clear to the establishment of a free Parliamentary régime; and it makes the situation much more hopeful to find the solution of these questions postponed until after such an establishment. But we mention the existence of these obscurities in order to guard against undue elation or premature rejoicing. Great Britain has, indeed, proved the honesty of her intentions, but with it she has also declared their limits, and will maintain her special position in Egypt.

Within certain bounds, then, the Egyptians hold the destiny of their country in their own hands. Upon what they will make of it we do not care to speculate. Nor do we propose to expound here any long view in regard to Egypt. It may be that Yehia Ibrahim Pasha will succeed in his endeavours to keep his people calm during electoral excitements, and to insist on their preserving a moderate attitude during the period of adaptation to the normal régime. It may well be, on the other hand, that the Zaghloulists will swamp the country, and, perhaps, will run amok. Or it may be that other parties, for all of which the High Commissioner is resolved to secure fairplay, may assert themselves. The number of contingencies is, in fact, enormous, and, while we may prepare for the worst to happen, we may at least hope that our troubles, as far as the use of force is concerned, are ended. There are, it is true, many intelligent men in this country, with vast experience of Egyptian affairs, and, indeed, of the affairs of kindred Eastern States, who believe that the worst will happen, and that Great Britain will have again to proclaim a Protectorate. Others go even further, and assert that it is in world interests that the influence of Great Britain in Egypt should remain paramount; but it is difficult, in these later cynical days, to put forward such high motives as justification for the adoption of unpopular courses. In any case, it would appear that the views of these men have not been overlooked by Great Britain, which will remain at hand for emergencies. But the promise of political independence having been made to the Egyptians, there was nothing for it but to fulfil that promise; and if, contrary to many expectations, the Egyptian people take a sanely moderate view of the position, so much the better for them, for ourselves, and for the general world.

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BAHREIN.*

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

May 27.

Important changes are now being made in the administration of the Bahrein Islands. For some time abuses have been creeping into the Government; the control of the Sheikh over some sections of the population has grown more and more feeble, and it was obvious that something would have to be done in the near future to set things on a more satisfactory basis. Events which occurred during the month of Ramadhan this year provided a suitable opportunity for interference, and the changes are now in train.

Fifty-five years ago, when Sheikh Isa al Khalifah was called on by the British Government to assume control of the administration of these islands, they were in the last stages of anarchy and disorder; pirates on the seas, and robberies, murders, and tribal quarrels on land produced a state of insecurity which rendered progress, whether commercial, agricultural, or moral, impossible. By dint of hard work and with the unfailing assistance of the British Government, Sheikh Isa succeeded in restoring order, and has allowed Bahrein to become a considerable trading centre. For this both the British Government and the people of Bahrein owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Even so, however, the islands have not developed in the way that they should. The controlling hand of government has grown less and less visible. Abuses have crept into the Customs administration, some of the tribes have become almost independent under their own Sheikhs, have refused to pay the revenues due from them, and, when taken to task about it, have threatened to migrate in a body to the territories of Ibn Saoud or the Qatar Peninsula, while education, communications, and all works of public utility have been neglected and the revenues spent largely in maintaining in indolence the numerous members of the Al Khalifah family. At the same time the Sheikh, while unwilling to spend the revenues on works of public utility, has, with a conservatism born of old age, refused to grant sanction for the undertaking of such works by private enterprise, even though it was impressed on him that no expense would fall on him. Thus the provision of a pure fresh water supply and electric lighting in the town of Manamah, the big trade centre of the islands, has hitherto been impossible owing to the refusal of the Sheikh to grant the necessary sanction.

Early in Ramadhan a brawl occurred in Manamah between some Nejdis and the Persians who form a not inconsiderable element in the population of the town. The brawl in itself was not serious, and was stopped before any serious harm had been done. The seed of ill-feeling had been sown, however, and on May 10, arising out of a very paltry excuse, a much more serious affray took place, when several people were killed and many more or less seriously injured. On this occasion the absence of any Government control was very strongly marked. Bands of Nejdis and Persians rushed about the bazaars armed with lathis, and attacking anyone they met who belonged to the other side and was unarmed. Fortunately neither side had firearms, or the results would have been very much more serious. It appeared to be nobody's business, however, to try to bring the two sides to reason or to stop the fighting. Police there were none. True, there were a few nondescript persons locally known as police who actually were only municipal watchmen, but they would have been powerless to do anything even if they had wanted to do so. The fighting was left to go on as it would until a rumour that the British Political Agent was coming with the Indian sepoys, who form the Agency guard, brought both sides to their senses, and by the time the Political Agent arrived in his car the fighting had ceased. The Agency guard, which turned out merely as escort to the Political Agent, and not with any idea of interfering in what was purely a matter for the local Government to deal with, did not arrive until all was over except the removal of the dead and wounded.

It was then decided that radical changes must be made, and consequently Colonel Knox, Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, came to Bahrein to discuss the question with the Political Agent and the Sheikh. The result of his discussions, which lasted several days, were announced in a public majlis on May 26. Colonel Knox announced that Sheikh Isa had agreed, while remaining Sheikh of Bahrein, to withdraw entirely from all participation in the direction of affairs, this duty being performed for the future by his eldest son, Sheikh Hamad, assisted by his brother Sheikh Abdallah. After paying a tribute to the work of Sheikh Isa during the long period of his rule in these islands, Colonel Knox impressed upon Sheikh Hamad the urgent necessity of a more prudent expenditure of the public revenues than had been in vogue hitherto, advised him to set his teeth against unnecessary largesses and to pay attention to the needs of the public and the development of the territories under his rule. He then tendered some very outspoken advice to the various communities of which the population of the islands is composed. The Customs officials had, he said, been warned that certain abuses which had crept into the administration were to cease at once, and that they would be held personally responsible for any losses incurred through their omission to observe the regulations. To the Courts he gave a warning against allowing more or less influential people to try to interfere in cases before the courts by interceding on behalf of persons in whom they were interested. Qadhis were instructed that in cases where such interference came to their notice they were to hold up the case and report the matter either to Sheikh Hamad or to the Political Agent. The members of the Al Khalifah family were warned that they could no longer expect to be maintained in indolence out of the public revenues. Their numbers were now too big, and such diversion of public funds was not fair to the rest of the people. Those of them who had the ability and the will to assist in the administration of the islands might rest assured that they would receive ample reward. Those who lacked those qualifications could expect to get no more than a bare subsistence allowance. It was for the tribesmen, however, that his most outspoken words were addressed. Government, he said, was determined to have only one ruler in Bahrein, whom everyone must obey and to whom everyone must pay his fair share of taxation. If the tribes were not willing to accept that situation, and, as they had often threatened, decided to migrate, let them do so, and the sooner the better. They would not be allowed any longer to try to play off one ruler against another. Let them realise, however, that if they did go in a spirit of contumacy they must not be surprised if they found their lands and properties confiscated to the State and let to others. There would be no

* The Bahrein Islands are situated 20 miles off the coast of El Hasa, in Arabia. Bahrein itself is 27 miles long by 10 wide; its capital, Manamah, has 35,000 inhabitants. The ruling family, Al Khalifah, and most of the townsmen belong to the Sunni sect. The town population consists of Arabs from Nejd and of negroes. the agricultural population and the pearl divers are mostly Shiahs; There is a large Persian community, mostly Shiah, and a number of Indian merchants and tradesmen, mostly Hindu.

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lack of tenants, and Government would not hesitate to take that step. The foreign community, which, he said, appeared to have prospered and increased enormously in recent years, would continue as heretofore to be under the jurisdiction of the Political Agent, and their present prosperity showed that they had every reason to be satisfied with their lot. To the Bahrein Shiahs he said that they had during recent years shown a tendency to resent the privileges possessed by the Sunnis, and to put forward statements of grievances. He had carefully examined their case, and was of opinion that, though there had undoubtedly been occasional instances of injustice and harsh treatment, yet, on the whole, they had been fairly treated and had little ground for justifiable complaint. They must, however, realise that the Government of Bahrein is Sunni, and, as a result, it is only natural that Sunni will to a certain extent be a privileged class —a position which the Shiahs must be content to face. Finally, he appealed to the merchants to make an attempt to put a stop to the malpractices which are current throughout the pearl trade, on which the prosperity of Bahrein depends more than on anything else. It is, he said, notorious that the Persian Gulf pearl industry is full of deceit and fraud from top to bottom, and he urged the merchants in their own interests and in order to preserve their good name to make some attempt to bring about reforms.

As a rule, the changes and Colonel Knox's speech have been well received, and hopes are entertained that Bahrein will now enter upon an era of development and prosperity which will rapidly make it the most important place in the Persian Gulf. Well served by steamships, which call at regular intervals, and centrally situated to serve as a distributing centre for the markets of the Hasa and Central Arabia, it has the means of expansion ready to hand, and needs only an enlightened and progressive Government to enable it to attain a very important position.

BRITAIN AND ISLAM.

At a luncheon given in his honour at the Holborn Restaurant, by Mr. Alec Tyler, on July 3, Dr. S. M. Zwemer, editor of the "Moslem World," gave a profoundly interesting address on the relations between Great Britain and the Mohammedan world. Dr. Zwemer, an American of Dutch origin, has lived for thirty-three years under the British flag, and during the greater part of this time has interested himself in Moslem peoples. In the course of his remarks he pleaded, in the interests both of the British Empire and of Mohammedans, of whom 107 millions lived under British rule, for a better understanding between both parties. He did not ignore the difficulties in the way, There were four grounds of estrangement:—(1) Political, exemplified by the tenets of the Sacred Law, which commends, even when it does not make obligatory, the treatment of "infidels" as inferiors; (2) social; Moslems are offended as much by our abolition of slavery which is allowed by the Koran, as by our attitude towards intoxicating liquors, which are forbidden by the Koran; (3) the movement for self-determination or independence; and (4) the Khalifate question. Great Britain has a tremendous responsibility towards the Mohammedans, and Dr. Zwemer believed that God had destined the Empire to work out their future for them. In spite of his love for the Mohammedan world—"I feel," he said, "for these people with their disappointed hopes after the War, feeling that they have lost their all"—Dr. Zwemer does not approve of British policy in the grant of independence to Egypt, which he does not believe will prove to be in the best interests of the Egyptians.

Sir Valentine Chirol also spoke, and while paying tribute to the splendid faith which actuated Dr. Zwemer, said that for his own part he saw more clearly the difficulties in the way of the goal held out to them until Mohammedan ideals were brought into harmony with British ideals.

Mr. Alec Tyler presided at the luncheon, and was warmly thanked by Mr. Basil Matthews, Editor of "Outward Bound," for having enabled those present to meet Dr. Zwemer.

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The annual dinner of the Central Asian Society was held in the Edward VII. Rooms of the Victoria Hotel on July 4, and was attended by some 130 members and friends. Sir Maurice de Bunsen, G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., Chairman of Council, presided. The guests of the Society were Viscount Milner and Lord Carnock, and among others present were:—Lady de Bunsen, Lord Lamington, Field-Marshal Sir Arthur Barrett, General Sir Edmund Barrow and Lady Barrow, Sir Michael O'Dwyer and Lady O'Dwyer, Sir John Hewett and Sir Ali Imam (as guests of Colonel F. E. Fremantle), Sir Charles Yate, M.P., General Sir Raleigh and Lady Egerton, Sir George Barnes, Sir Alexander Cobbe, Sir Claude Hill, General Grove, Sir George Forbes, Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside, Sir Percy and Lady Sykes, Miss Ella Sykes, Sir William Willcox, Sir Edward and Lady Penton, Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett, Sir William Geary, Sir Walter Bond, Colonel and Mrs. A. C. Yate, Lady Roche, General and Mrs. Fryer, General Bailward, Commodore D. Norris, and Colonel and Mrs. C. B. Stokes.

In proposing the toast of the "Guests of the Society," the Chairman pointed out that people in Great Britain were bound to take a great and increasing interest in Asiatic affairs. Whether all that was said about the gulf growing between non-white people and the white people of the world and about Pan-Islamism and Asiatic nationalism were true or not, it behoved this country to study the Asia question, prepared to meet it, as it developed, in the same sympathetic spirit that it had always shown towards the legitimate aspirations of Asiatic peoples.

Lord Milner, replying to the toast, said that he was going to avail himself of the latitude with which the Society interpreted its own title to speak about Palestine. He was concerned about the trend of public opinion in this country with regard to the British position in Palestine. When he returned a year ago from a visit there he was shocked to find so many of his friends in the doldrums about Palestine, and since then the gloom, if anything, had deepened. Certainly difficulties had to be encountered in that country, and it was in no way a bed of roses for the British Administration; but if we were to come out of every country which was not a bed of roses, the confines of the British Empire would be very considerably reduced. Explaining the circumstances which compelled him on a visit of pleasure and recuperation to examine conditions in Palestine, he went on to say that he came to the conclusion that the Arabs were protesting, not against something which had happened or was happening, but against something that they had been told was going to happen. Arab non-co-operation was a great embarrassment to the British Administration, but the worst way out of it would be for us to wobble in the face of an agitation which did not rest upon any legitimate grievances. As a warm sympathiser with Arab aspirations, he thought Arabs of Palestine ought to be satisfied with Mr. Ormsby-Gore's recent declaration of British policy, and he believed they would be satisfied when they found that the British Government was as good as its word; that the coming of the Jews did not involve any injury to them, and that their coming did promote the development of Palestine in a way in which it could not otherwise be promoted for decades, even if ever. The position was serious, but not insuperable. We must not let it fluster us, but go on quietly showing that we were exercising a just and impartial administration. It might be that the Jews and Arabs would never learn to love one another, but that was not to say that they would never be able to live together in the same country under a fair and impartial administration. If Palestine was not to become another storm centre it was absolutely essential that there should be a disinterested Government, keeping peace, not only between Jew and Arab, between Moslem and Christian, but also between different denominations of Christians.

A well-earned tribute to the retiring secretary, Colonel A. C. Yate, who in the course of five years' devoted work had revived the Society and raised its membership from two hundred to seven hundred, was paid by Sir Edward Penton in an admirable speech dealing with the Society's activities. Colonel Yate, whose health was drunk was musical honours, replied, acknowledging the help that he had been given in the rebuilding of the Society, and reminded his audience that Lord Curzon's declaration still held good that the great work of the Society is to be done by its members in the vast field of action which British stakes and interests in the Near and Middle East lay open to them.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

President: Lord Lamington, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN PERSIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—As President of the Persia Society I have received the following telegram from His Majesty's Minister at Teheran:—"Recent earthquake at Turbati-Haidari has caused real and widespread distress. Relief contribution from British sources would be welcome proof of British sympathy. Could fund be opened under your auspices, and public invited to subscribe? Shah has opened local relief under his own patronage."

The Persia Society cordially endorses this appeal and will be very glad to forward donations, which should be addressed to the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, c,o. Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.—I am, etc.,

The Persia Society, LAMINGTON.
74, Grosvenor Street, W.1,
July 2.

THE BULGARIAN SITUATION.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—It is impossible for me to read all the papers which have spoken on the recent change of government in Sofia, and more so to attempt to correct the general misapprehension under which all labour on the subject. In your issue of the 28th instant you give extracts from articles in the *Nation*, the *Glasgow Herald* and the *New Statesman*. All the writers of these articles have failed to understand the real situation in Bulgaria created by Stambolisky's régime, as also the one which the new Government is establishing and will establish. One writer says: "Woe to Bulgaria if it falls under the guidance of the Thracian and Macedonian irredentists"; another says: "Woe to Bulgaria if the peasants, followers of Stambolisky, rose successfully against the *intelligentzia*, and the upstart *bourgeois* with western varnish"; a third sees in the satisfaction of Turkey with the change—satisfaction because it promises a change in Bulgarian policy—a change of direction towards the Macedonian question. They all foresee internal danger to Bulgaria, and danger to the peace in the Balkans, as any change in her policy as regards Serbia is bound to lead to a conflict.

In the first place the Thracian and Macedonian irredentists, so called, have never dominated and never will dominate Bulgaria. There has been as much on one side as on the other. They are good Bulgarians and will not involve Bulgaria in unnecessary risks promising only ruin for her. They have, of course, the sympathy of the Bulgarians of Bulgaria, but they are determined to work out their destiny by themselves. Their cause is righteous, as one writer says, and they are striving to secure to their oppressed countrymen what the treaties have granted them. Who can blame them?

To talk of *intelligentzia* with western varnish, and upstart *bourgeois* on the one hand and the peasant class on the other, is nonsense as regards Bulgaria. The first is inapplicable, the second is an invention of Stambolisky; it was his unwarranted slogan. Stambolisky belonged both to the so-called *intelligentzia* and *bourgeois*, for of such as himself are these two classes. All past governments have given their best attention to the prosperity of agriculture, to that of the peasant. It could not be otherwise. Those governments ruled by the will of the peasant vote, eighty-two per cent. of the entire population. Until the demagogue Stambolisky arose nobody had dreamed of a *bourgeois* party in Bulgaria. Stambolisky's power was founded upon a delusion; this delusion has vanished with his disappearance. There is no fear of any reaction on the part of the *peasant* class against the recent change; there exists no reason for it.

Stambolisky's boisterous career, most ruinous for the country, has never been appreciated at its proper value abroad. He is spoken of as a fallen idol. He was evidently such abroad, but not for his country. Ungovernable tyrant is the correct word, as regards his country itself. He is credited abroad with great services to his country. Anybody else would have done as much and more, but without his bluster and the almost irreparable damage he has occasioned the country he was supposed to serve. No other Bulgarian statesman could have followed any other policy; there was no other policy to prefer. Stambolisky's policy was and is the only possible one for Bulgaria. Such is the pass to which Bulgaria's misfortunes have brought her. Bulgaria is not in a situation to provoke any of her neighbours, she cannot but work and strive for good relations with them.

But everyone says—How about the Macedonian question? How will the new Government treat it? The Macedonian question concerns, in the first place, Serbia; Serbia rules there, and Serbia is strong while Bulgaria is weak. Serbia is ever reminding the world of the obligations Bulgaria has taken upon herself by treaty. A similar treaty has imposed obligations upon Serbia. Bulgaria has done her duty to the utmost, a recognised fact; has Serbia done as much? Serbia has only to fulfil her obligations to the minorities in her new territories, and there will be no Macedonian oppression. But no, Serbia has kindled a conflagration in Macedonia, is feeding it every day, and expects, even demands, that Bulgaria should slave to extinguish it! It is unjust, inhuman. Serbia is four times bigger than Bulgaria, her army is ten times as large as the Bulgarian: surely she should be in a position to watch and to guard her frontiers, and insure peace and order within her territory. Why blame Bulgaria for Serbia's shortcomings?

The easy success of the revolution, which has annihilated Stambolisky's régime, is attributed to the action of the military; but for such it might have failed. Of course, some sort of organisation was necessary to overthrow this régime; the military organisation was selected as best at hand. But every one of the soldiers is a peasant; how is it that they acted with such determination? For a long time past Stambolisky had lost hold of the country. He remained in power by the terror he had organised with all the bad and corrupted elements in the country. These at the decisive moment failed him, as they were bound to do. The peasant class as also the *bourgeois* class were tired of him; all had suffered from his rule, and all hated him as a violent upstart, demagogue and corrupted tyrant. And he has collapsed, to be regretted by no honest man.

The new Government's first work is to restore peace and order where anarchy ruled, to give confidence to the people in its rulers, security of life and property which had ceased to exist so long as Stambolisky was master.

Stambolisky's colleagues are under arrest, not because they are dangerous men, but because while in power they passed unconstitutional laws to legalise committed crimes.—I am, etc.,

P. M. MATTHEEFF.

London, June 29.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Irak and the Nejd.

The Baghdad correspondent of the *Morning Post* contributed to the issue of July 6 an article upon "British Policy in Arabia." After describing the extraordinary intensity and ambition of Ibn Sa'oud and his organisation of the Ikhwan, he points out the internal danger threatened by the Brothers:—

> Efficient though they may be as a fighting unit, however, the Ikhwan are in other respects a source of weakness and danger to the State. Removed from their natural surroundings and made to live in settled colonies, they are out of their element. They cannot under such circumstances follow their ancestral occupation of camel breeding, for this demands a nomad life. At the same time the supply of water at the new colonies is not sufficient to enable them all to employ themselves in agriculture. The result is that most of them toil not neither do they spin, and Ibn Sa'oud is compelled to maintain them to a very large extent out of the revenues of the country. This constitutes a very heavy drain on the resources of a country where cultivation is scanty and as a rule extremely precarious, and where the taxable capacity of the people is strictly limited. When the Ikhwan are actually in the field they are fed and maintained entirely by the Sultan and by any loot they can lay their hands on.

A large standing army of the nature of the Ikhwan must, moreover, be constantly employed if it is to be kept under control; Ibn Sa'oud's views are obliged, therefore, to be permanently turning towards fresh conquests. Further, there is little love lost between the settled population of the towns and oases of Arabia and the Ikhwan, so that—

> Ibn Sa'oud will have to walk very warily if he is to prevent the weapon which he has forged from turning in his hand. As long as he himself remains alive his own personality may suffice to hold things together, for both the Ikhwan and the settled population are warmly devoted to him at present; but there is little doubt that when he dies things will revert again to their previous chaotic state.

British policy in Arabia, meanwhile, is bolstering up this militant fanaticism. The cost of living in Arabia is high, the merchants groan against the heavy taxes, and the removal of the Bedouin from their normal pursuit of camel breeding will not only reduce the export of animals, but will make impossible payment for exports. It is to this position that Britain holds the key:—

> The truth is that Ibn Sa'oud is maintaining himself and his standing army by means of the big subsidy which is paid to him by the British Government, not, as far as can be seen, for any assistance which he gives or indeed can give, but presumably to restrain him from attacking Iraq, which is ruled over by the son of his most hated foe, the King of the Hejaz. But it is merely a result of British policy that he is now in a position to make any serious threat against Iraq. During the Great War the actual assistance which Ibn Sa'oud rendered was negligible. There are those who believe, however, that any threat to Iraq from Ibn Sa'oud may be largely discounted, at any rate for the time being. It is true that Iraq professed to be greatly alarmed when, in the spring of 1922, a party of the Ikhwan descended on some of the Iraq tribes out in the desert pastures; but the fear was to a large extent assumed in the hope that the Government would be moved to reissue to the tribes the rifles collected after the rising of 1920. Occasional raids may, it is true, be made on the settled area, but a raiding party of any size is extremely vulnerable, and with the advent of aeroplanes the security hitherto afforded by rapid retreat into the desert has been lost. In addition, Great Britain has a very effective weapon in her hands to be used if Ibn Sa'oud persists in a policy of aggression, namely, the blockade.

It will be seen, says the writer of this article, that British policy is contradictory, for while on the one hand it declares its intention of setting up as soon as possible an independent State in Irak, on the other it is paying Ibn Sa'oud a large subsidy, the net result of which is that we have to keep British forces in Irak! It is in the power of blockade that our remedy lies:—

> To argue that if Ibn Sa'oud takes any aggressive action against Iraq we can bring him to heel by withholding his subsidy misses the point. Such action might conceivably be effective if it were certain that it would be carried out, but no stoppage of the subsidy was made in 1922 when he raided the Iraq tribes, and in any case the payment is an uncalled for waste of money when in the blockade we have a weapon which would be no less effective, and when there is every reason to believe that by discontinuing entirely the payment of the subsidy we shuld make it impossible for him to maintain the formidable force which he now has, and in this way the potential danger to Iraq would be considerably reduced.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

At Last.

Peace with Turkey comes after such months of anticipation—and disappointment—that it cannot be expected to arouse the full tide of enthusiasm that would otherwise have been excited by the news (incomplete though the settlement is, seeing that the main obstacle to an agreement—the question of the Turkish Debt coupons—has merely been shelved). But though the business community has accepted the development quietly, it is none the less fully aware of the importance of the success of the Lausanne negotiations. It means the removal of a barrier to trade development throughout the whole of the Near and Middle East which has existed ever since the Armistice, clogging enterprise, hindering progress, and making the exchanges much worse than they would otherwise be. Coming at the present juncture when the authorities have been warning us that an even leaner period lies ahead of us, the news is particularly welcome, and though, owing to the repercussions of the Reparations crisis, the effects of the development may not be immediately perceptible, the fact remains that the signature of peace at Lausanne will represent the most considerable advance towards the normal made since 1918.

Four per Cent.

The alteration in the Bank rate from 3 to 4 per cent. was fully expected in the City in view of the conditions prevailing in the money market. It is interesting to note that it is the first change for almost a year, the last alteration being on July 13, and the principal reason for it is to be found in the extent to which in recent months overseas borrowers have been taking advantage of the position in this market, where they have been able to obtain money on cheaper terms than elsewhere. America has been prominent in this direction of late, while the more attractive rates of interest obtainable in that country have led to the investment of British funds there, these two causes being mainly responsible for the recent movement of the dollar against us. This tendency should be checked by the increased Bank rate, and if 4 per cent. is inadequate for this purpose, there need be no surprise if another half-point or so is added. The Stock Exchange has, of course, felt the effect of the change, which is bound to act as a corrective of the unreal level of values attained by gilt-edged securities, though there is not likely to be any pronounced downward movement until something approaching a real revival of trade calls for the financing of business on a large scale.

The Cotton Position.

Judging from the latest figures of the American cotton crop, we seem to be appreciably nearer the point at which there may be a real shortage of cotton. Whether there will be so or not depends entirely on the extent to which world conditions permit of the development of the demand for cotton goods. With a normal demand a shortage would be a *fait accompli*, but we are very far from that position, though the settlement with Turkey is going to make an immense difference, and we may yet have cause to regret our dilatoriness in developing supplies of cotton within the Empire. As we know, great things have been accomplished in the last few years in an attempt to make up for lost time, and granted two or three more years' respite, Lancashire may be in a fairly safe position as regards supplies; but if, as may justly be anticipated, the current year sees a general settlement of the problems that have been troubling the world, then there will be a great development in the demand for cotton for all purposes, with the corollary that Lancashire will have to face soaring prices or go short.

Montenegrin Debt Service.

The statement that it was proposed to resume interest payments on the Montenegrin Five per Cent. Loan, to which I referred recently in these columns, would appear to have led holders of the bonds to believe that coupons falling due on July 1 would be met. In view of the short interval between that date and the occasion on which the reference in question was made it was scarcely reasonable to anticipate anything of the kind, and I can see no occasion in the circumstances for the surprise expressed because funds had not been transmitted for the service of the debt. The bondholders have had an exasperating experience in waiting for their money, but now that they have had a definite statement on the question from a Minister, what further period of delay there may be (and one assumes that the coupons will be met on the next date) should, at any rate, be devoid of uncertainty.

P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The profits earned by the P. and O. Banking Corporation for the year ended March 31 are somewhat below the level reached the previous year, which is not surprising in view of the adverse conditions with which the Eastern banks have had to contend, and the actual total of £139,388, as against £159,300, must be adjudged very satisfactory in the circumstances. The dividend is maintained at 5½ per cent., a fact which suggests the confidence of the directors in the outlook. The business of the bank, it may be noted, has continued to expand. The total of the balance-sheet has increased by nearly £10,000,000, while the deposits have increased to £10,360,705 from £6,316,930.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

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Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

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C. De CERJAT, Esq.
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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 3.

A French Protest.

Before Parliament rose in the middle of June for the summer vacation it passed into law all the important bills mentioned in last month's letter, i.e., (1) the measure for the Roumanisation of the Reshitza Company; (2) the law against illicit speculation; and (3) the law regarding the payment of debts by Roumanian importers to foreign creditors. The last measure elicited a strong protest from the French commercial representative in Bucharest which was published in the *Argus*. He considered that it was entirely unjust that the French creditors should be obliged to accept an arrangement in the making of which they took no part. Not only, indeed, were they not parties to the London and Manchester arrangements, but it is an open secret that they considered the terms proposed to them by the Roumanian delegates of the debtors who visited Paris on their way to London thoroughly unsatisfactory, and refused to make a collective agreement. Discussions upon this subject are likely to continue for some time.

New Prices for Petroleum Products.

Two other important measures have been passed. One of these fixes new and considerably higher prices for the sale of petroleum products on the home market and the other relates to the liquidation of ex-enemy property. As regards the petroleum prices the oil companies appear to be fairly satisfied with the new regulations. From the point of view of the consumer, however, the immediate effect, as regards the distribution of lamp oil in Bucharest, has been that the hawkers who are the chief distributors of kerosene to the ordinary private consumer, went on strike, as they contended that the commission of fifty bani per kilogram allowed to them was not sufficient to make it worth their while, and small quantities of kerosene could only be had by sending specially to the depôts, a very costly way of procuring it. The prices now fixed are as follows in lei per kilogram; ex-refinery and not including taxes, those previously in force being given in brackets:—Aviation benzine 8.50 (5.00), light benzine (petrol) 6.00 (3.50), heavy benzine 3.50 (2.00), white spirit (Washington) 3.50 (2.00), refined lamp oil 3.00 (1.50), gas oil 2.50 (1.50), residues: (a) For delivery to State, district or commune up to 365,000 tons yearly, 1.30 (.70) (b) For delivery to factories, etc. 2.00 (1.00).

Though the law concerning the liquidation of enemy property has actually been passed and has been published in the *Official Monitor* it is difficult to understand how it can be carried into effect, as it appears to give the Government power to appropriate all ex-enemy property and interests, even if these have already been freed from sequestration by the Roumanian authorities and legally disposed of to new owners.

The Government and the Export Trade.

The Government has evidently begun to realise that serious measures must be adopted to increase exports so as, in some measure at least, to reduce the large adverse balance of trade. The increase in the price of wheat is intended as a step in this direction. Another measure has just been passed—which will be of interest to British egg importers—provides that the export of eggs shall in future be free from May 1 until November 1 annually. It also permits the export of most kinds of cattle and sheep, but not horses or bulls. Transylvania has hitherto suffered greatly from the prohibition of the export of cattle, as this has long been one of the principal branches of trade in that province. The cause of the prohibition was a shortage of butcher's meat. The egg trade is done chiefly with Bessarabia where several British houses have had extensive trading connections for generations.

M. Bratianu's Visit.

According to the *Argus* the main objects of M. Vintila Bratianu in visiting England and France are: (1) to try to clear up the question of the war reparations due to Roumania (it will be remembered that his brother M. Ion Bratianu was always dissatisfied with the one per cent. allotted to his country); (2) to find, in the form of a loan, the capital required by the State to collaborate with private Roumanian capital in the development of the timber industry, the fisheries, etc.; and (3) to explain the terms and conditions under which the Government is willing to permit the participation of foreign capital in Roumanian enterprises.

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Temporary Headquarters: LJUBLJANA, JUGOSLAVIA.
Cable Address: "Jadranska."

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Surplus - - - ,, 32,515,000

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Foreign Department.

Affiliated Banks:

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ADRIATISCHE BANK, Vienna.
FRANK SAKSER STATE BANK, New York City.
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Industrial enterprises in Jugoslavia financed and established.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The Standing Administrative Committee of the British Empire Exhibition has issued a report on the progress made between March 1 and May 31. The construction of the Indian Pavilion, it is stated, has already been commenced, and it is expected that this will be completed by the middle of October next. It is interesting to note that one-sixth of the total space of the Indian Pavilion has been taken by ruling Princes of Indian Native States. The Sudan has decided to participate with the East African Group, and has applied for 2,500 sq. ft. of space, and proposes to spend £2,400. A definite proposal has been received from Palestine (to include also the representation of Cyprus) for about 4,800 sq. ft. The representatives of Palestine and Cyprus with their architect have inspected the site offered to them between the West African and the South African Sections, and on certain conditions are prepared to accept it. Malta has applied for an area of 5,000 sq. ft. on which it proposes to erect a pavilion covering 3,000 sq. ft. The Maltese Pavilion will probably be erected on a site to the south-east of the East African Section. The expenditure authorised by the Maltese Government is £8,000.

The Cunard Company announces that Mr. F. Litchfield, for reasons of health, relinquished on June 30 the position of manager of the company's Southampton office. Mr. Charles E. Cotterell, hitherto an assistant manager of the company in Liverpool, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Litchfield.

The attention of British holders of coupons and drawn bonds of the Bulgarian Six per Cent. Loan of 1892 is drawn to the notice published on October 27, 1921, offering payment in French francs converted in sterling at the sight rate of exchange on Paris on the day of presentation, less tax. Coupons and drawn bonds due January, 1916, to July, 1923, may now be deposited at the Imperial Ottoman Bank, 25, Austin Friars, E.C.

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British Consular Reports.

IV.—ROUMANIA

(Continued)

Efforts have been made by the Government to encourage the growing of wheat. The maximum price of 25,000 lei is increased by a premium of 5,000 lei paid when the wheat is delivered over to a miller, and in addition a premium of 200 lei is offered per hectare of autumn wheat sown. This does not by any means approach the cost of ploughing and sowing, which is approximately as follows (in lei per hectare):—Ploughing, 300; seed, 800; sowing, 100; harrowing, 100; total, 1,300. Then the Government subsidy is paid in two instalments—one on April 1 and the second on July 1, 1923, so that the above expense, and also the spring labour cost, is to be incurred before anything is received by the farmer.

Imports.

During 1922 a small quantity of coal was imported. It will be many years before British coal imports can resume their pre-war importance. British cotton yarns continued to be imported into Roumania in 1922, although, apparently, not in the same quantities as in 1920 and 1921. British importers complained that it was not possible to dispose of cotton yarns in Roumania at a price in lei sufficient to cover sterling costs and profits. Sales were nevertheless made, and the prices realised for British goods were at all times higher than those for Italian or other yarns, although the liquidation of stocks kept the market somewhat under its normal course.

It is very difficult for the ultimate consumer of yarns to understand the reasons for the rapid increases in price in lei, which necessarily follow upon the international course of exchange, and there is a tendency to defer purchases as far as possible in the hope that prices will revert to a lower level. This leads to a hand-to-mouth system of trading which has gradually become general, not only in the yarn business, but also in practically all classes of goods imported from Western Europe, and is one of the difficulties which will confront British shippers to this part of the world for some time to come. A hand-to-mouth system of buying means smaller and more frequent purchases, and, coupled as it has been during last year with a tendency to pay cash, or on terms approximating to cash, it must be regarded as a healthy sign, although to the British exporter small orders mean larger overhead charges, and necessarily a diminution in the bulk shipped during the course of the year.

It has been practically impossible to do any business since the Armistice in the larger agricultural machines. Not only have the prices of these machines risen in the United Kingdom, but the depreciation of the leu has been such that to-day something like 100 times their pre-war price in lei must be paid by the customer. It takes some time for a buyer to become accustomed to such prices. Here, however, several importing agents state that as regards small machinery, it is now becoming possible to sell on cash terms, whereas, prior to the war, this trade with Roumania was always conducted on credit terms averaging over three years. In small machines there seems to be a possible opening for British trade, but in tools and implements the market has been taken by Central European manufacturers.

Motor-car tyres have been imported in 1922, as in previous years since the war, in large quantities, but British manufacturers are not represented to any extent in this trade. Quite recently one British firm has appointed an active agent in Bucharest, and the agent seems optimistic regarding prospects of business. In this branch prices asked for British manufactures have been materially greater than for comparable French tyres. There seems no reason why British manufacturers should not be able to sell a tyre of comparative quality at similar cost to those sent here, say, from France.

In wire ropes and belting the United Kingdom manufacturers hold the market for quality, but both in time of delivery and in price they fall short of foreign competitors, especially German and Austrian. Some of the British manufacturers are represented by active agents, and, considering the state of the market and the amount of business being done, a considerable quantity of the goods sold came from the United Kingdom. Tin and terne plates have been sold, although in smaller quantities than in previous years. Soft iron for use in the manufacture of nails has also been supplied. These goods are sold for cash by the importer in Roumania, but he seems to have found some difficulty in paying cash in sterling for the goods he imports.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bank of British West Africa.

The profit of the Bank of British West Africa for the year ended March 31, after providing for current charges (including contribution to staff profit-sharing fund), rebate on bills, and for all bad and doubtful debts, was £100,574, plus £34,116 brought forward, making £134,690. The directors recommend a final dividend of 3 per cent., making 5 per cent., less tax, transferring £30,000 to contingency fund and £10,000 to writing down premises and furniture account, leaving £34,690 to be carried forward. The head office has been transferred to 37, Gracechurch Street, E.C.3.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company announces that the actual returns for the year to March 31 have not yet been received from India, but the company's share of surplus profits, Rs4,91,540, has been duly paid by the Government of India, and on remittance to this country has realised £32,558. An interim half-yearly dividend has been declared in respect of the year at the rate of 15s. on the ordinary stock, and a bonus of 10s., making, with the guaranteed interest of 35s. per cent., a distribution of 3 per cent. The balance of reserve on July 1 is estimated at £148,000 after providing for dividend and bonus.

P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The report of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 states that the net profits for the year, after providing for taxation, bad and doubtful debts, and valuing investments at market rates, amount to £139,388; with the addition of £14,043 brought forward from last year, the available balance is £153,431, from which the directors have placed to reserve the sum of £25,000, making a total reserve of £115,000. Out of the balance of £128,431 they propose to pay a dividend of 5½ per cent., less tax, absorbing £113,251, leaving £15,180 to be carried forward.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Firmer Undertone.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ended June 29, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has remained practically unchanged, but the undertone has been rather firmer. The turnover of business has been moderate, and has consisted almost exclusively of transfers from near to distant positions. The difference between July and November Sakellarides has widened considerably, and at one time touched practically 200 points. The weakness of July Sakellarides is mainly due to the fact that the great majority of the existing stocks is tenderable cotton of grades fully good fair to good, which naturally weighs on the position in view of the fear of dockets. The renewed strength of Ashmouni futures is due to a great extent to speculative manipulation helped by the present shortage of supplies. Egyptian in Liverpool has not improved despite the continuation of large daily spot sales. The fact is that there too the bulk of the stocks consist of higher grade cottons, which is apparently more or less all covered with contracts; as the demand for these grades is negligible, it is but natural to find that no disposition exists to take up dockets. The fact that our prices are so extraordinarily cheap compared to American coupled with the daily strengthening of the statistical position prevent us from taking a bearish view of the market; on the contrary, our opinion is that as soon as the July position is disposed of all factors warrant for the close of the season a higher level of prices. This week's receipt amounted to 5,331 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,613,560 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 72,252 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,313,655 krs., against 1,380,576 krs. a week ago and 1,856,945 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—Minet-el-Bassal has been more active this week, and we have had an improved demand from abroad. Sales amount to about 7,300 B/s, of which we estimate 5,300 B/s Sakellarides, 1,850 B/s Uppers, and 150 B/s various. Attracted, no doubt, by the cheapness of our cotton compared with other growths, spinners have bought more freely than for some time past

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, and more attention has been paid to the better grades than for several weeks. Below fully good fair cotton becomes daily scarcer and dearer, but there is quite a good selection in the better styles. Prices are generally without change, except fair and fully fair, which are dearer than last week.

Uppers.—All grades have changed hands with the grades above fully good fair in most request. Prices generally do not show much change, but are inclined to ease.

Brown.—A small business has been done at slightly easier rates.

White.—A retail business has been done at hardening rates.

Crop 1923.—There is nothing special to report on the new crop, which is progressing normally.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Market Weak.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 4:—

Spot cotton has again been in good request, and, assisted by some fairly large purchases on Russian account in the early part of the week, the daily sales show an average of 1,700 bales. During the first few days the trend of prices proved to be somewhat uncertain, the American crop condition report causing a certain amount of uneasiness prior to its arrival last Monday. Afterwards, a downward tendency developed in both markets, which is still in evidence as we write. As we predicted in our report last week, the setback suffered in the upper basis was of short duration, the position being now reversed again, *i.e.*, uppers have hardened and Sakellaridis is slightly weaker.

Upper cotton, indeed, has figured very largely in the inquiry this week, and the additional supplies which have lately been brought into sight have had but little effect on the market. Most transactions took place at from 16⅜d: to 16⅝d. per lb. The Russian buying referred to above was divided, as on previous occasions, into two classes (1) purchases of F.G.F. Sakellaridis at about 100 on contracts, and (2) purchases of good to fine Sakellaridis, for which it is understood about 18d. was paid. The general inquiry for Sakellaridis has been concerned mostly with the "100 on" cotton, though here and there a distinct leaning towards the better cotton at more money was discernable. Low cotton, 10d. to 12d., still meets with many inquiries, but we have reason to believe that actual sales are only moderate in number. In Sudan cotton only a limited business has taken place; Tokar Sakel, owing to the high prices asked, is neglected by would-be buyers, and it appears that holders will either have to revise their selling limits or face the prospects of holding their cotton for an indefinite period.

White and brown cottons have met with but little inquiry from the trade. C.i.f. business has been very quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 30th ult. were returned as 7,160 bales. Total sales 8,500 bales (includes 350 Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 40 points, those of upper and brown 25 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 15.90d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Little Change in Conditions.

The "Manchester Cotton Trade Review" of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 7 states:—

Little variation has taken place in general conditions during the past week, though if any difference at all is discernable it is in the right direction. Possibly the hope of cheaper cotton based on the increased acreage reported by the American Official Bureau has put some heart into the market, for there is no denying the fact that the best chance of overseas trade activity lies in lower prices for cotton goods. Although some markets overseas are known to be getting very short, they appear in no hurry to buy.

As so frequently reported of late, the Yarn market is very depressed. Although orders for fair lines are reported here and there, the general experience has been one of stagnation. A ballot has been taken regarding the continuance or otherwise of the "minimum price" scheme, and the result is awaited with considerable interest. The unpalatable fact is that the spinners who have done any business at all worth mentioning are those who have not adhered to the scheme; those who have been loyal have, with few exceptions, had practically empty order books. The general demand for export continues slow, though once again the Levant has placed orders for "extra hards." In a general way quotations may be said to be about ½d. per lb. lower than last week.

Cloth.—Slightly improved enquiry from India has been noted, possibly due to the better news regarding the Monsoon. Small orders have been placed by Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, mainly for light fabrics. Rather better reports are to hand from China, where the sales at the auctions are said to have realised improved prices, but Chinese importers evidently do not believe in present quotations and are waiting for lower figures before placing orders for new goods. The protracted negotiations at Lausanne still exert an unfavourable influence on trade with the Near East, which continues small. A slight improvement is reported in transactions with South America, and under the influence of the better weather the home trade is a little brisker

Raw Cotton.—The forecast of the new crop is not particularly good as regards condition, but the acreage under cultivation constitutes a record. Quotations during the past week have fluctuated a good deal, with falls of 25-30 points on each of the first three days of the week, but with a reaction on Thursday and Friday. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 15.77d.; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 15.75d.

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SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, etc. Tablets, 6d.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d. and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery. Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 4s. each.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,
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Near East Markets.

ROUMANIA'S WHEAT HARVEST.

Reduced Yield in Prospect.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, July 3.

Details have now been published of the total sowings of this year's harvest, a long article by M. Carabella, an official at the Ministry of Agriculture, having appeared in the *Argus* of June 15, giving approximate figures. From these it would appear that the total area sown with wheat is 400,000 hectares less than last year, viz., 1,800,000 hectares of winter wheat as against 2,000,000 last year, and 450,000 hectares of spring wheat as against 650,000 hectares last year. It would seem that M. Carabella is seriously perturbed at this considerable decline in the wheat sowings, which he maintains cannot be justified by any natural causes. He points out that the wheat sowings in Bessarabia alone produced 32,000 wagons of wheat in 1922, and that this was sufficient to sow an area of 1,500,000 hectares, and suggests that this might have been used for distribution to the peasants in districts where there was a shortage of seed corn. Unfortunately no such steps were taken and in any case the low price for wheat fixed by the Government offered no inducement to agriculturalists to grow this crop, as they could get higher prices for barley, oats, and maize.

M. Carabella states that the normal area of wheat sowings for Greater Roumania would be about 4,000,000 hectares, and he considers that no effort would be too great, and no means should be spared, to attain this figure. In his view the price of wheat should be raised at least fifty per cent., as against barley, oats, and maize. Since his article was written a law has been passed raising the maximum price of wheat from 25,000 lei to 45,000 lei per wagon of 10,000 kilograms, but, as pointed out by Dr. G. Antipa in his very able pamphlet entitled "The Progressive General Paralysis of our National Economy and its Remedies," the world price at which Roumania's neighbours—Bulgaria and Hungary export, is 75,000 lei per wagon, so that even the new price is not very encouraging to wheat growers, especially as they are still liable to have part of their wheat crops commandeered by the Government for the use of the Army, etc., at a lower price. As regards the harvest prospects for this year the wheat crops are looking very well, in some districts even remarkably so, and the production per hectare should be at least as good as last year, although in view of the smaller area sown the production as a whole will doubtless be considerably less. All the other crops are equally promising, and have benefited greatly by the heavy rains which have fallen during June.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAK.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Irak gives the following particulars of conditions during the month ended May 15:—

In Lower Irak during the first half of April the weather was unusually cool, thereby retarding the germination of spring-sown crops, especially cotton. During the second half of the month there was an appreciable rise in the daily temperatures, which hastened the maturity of winter cereals. A few light showers of rain fell. In Upper Irak heavy thunderstorms, accompanied by hail, did fairly considerable damage to the standing crop of wheat and barley. The late spring rainfall in this area has been unusually heavy. In general, the season has been favourable to the wheat and barley crop. The average yield is expected to fall short of that of the previous season, which was exceptionally favourable.

A serious breach on the left bank of the Hindiyah branch of the Euphrates has swamped an area of standing crop of wheat and barley, roughly estimated at 10,000 acres. At the time of writing a still more serious breach at the head of the recently constructed Saklawiyah Canal has resulted in a very large area of standing crop being inundated. The extent of the damage done cannot at present be estimated.

Cotton sown during the last half of March and also from the third week of April germinated well and is making good progress. That sown during the first half of April germinated indifferently, and much of this latter area was resown. The stand of plants at present is good. An appreciable all-round improvement is noticeable in the attention given to cotton cultivation by growers. The total quantity of seed sold is 141,524 lb.

The quality of silk cocoons produced this season is good. The total quantity of eggs sold was 262 ounce packets. At Ba'qubah and Kadhimain pupils of elementary schools paid periodic visits to the silk breeding houses of the Agricultural Department and were given instruction in the rearing of silkworms and treatment of cocoons. The usual diseases were identified, but they are not so serious as materially to affect the yield. The silk work that has been done during the past two seasons has now arrived at a stage when it can be best undertaken by a commercial agency. It has been definitely proved that first-class cocoons can be produced under local conditions. The industry in its initial stage deserves generous treatment from the Government. Machinery is in course of erection for handling the flax crop grown experimentally by a few landowners. A Japanese variety of flax has given best results in the current season as far as the yield of straw per acre is concerned. In the main varietal test with wheat at the Government Experimental Farm, Rustam, out of the fifteen varieties under experiment, eleven have been discarded, as they are addicted to rust disease. The remaining four will be propagated next season. Soil analyses and the study of insect pests and diseases of plants continue satisfactorily. Ten varieties of sugar-cane, of which five were selected as chewing canes and five for sugar extraction, have been received from Madras and distributed to landowners in Basrah.

The total exports of grain up to the end of March from the 1921-1922 crop were 155,000 tons. Preliminary reports on the Basrah date crop indicate that conditions are favourable to an average crop. As the season advanced it transpired that the outbreak of locusts in the Mosul area was much more extensive than originally anticipated. The cereal situation in this area is serious threatened by the late ripening of the crops, the early decay of desert vegetation, and the unusually large outbreak of locusts. The destruction of large areas of wheat and barley is anticipated.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date July 3:—

Currants.—The slack state of affairs existing during May has not in any way been relieved during the period under review, and business continued on the smallest possible scale, and with nothing occurring to stimulate buyers to greater activity. In the early days of the month, with the sharp improvement in the exchange and a corresponding advance in price on the Greek market, it was hoped more interest would be shown here; but unfortunately no response was forthcoming, and we finish the month with a most disappointing trade passing. Holders realising the strength of the statistical position are displaying great firmness, being content to await the renewal of the demand long overdue. The arrivals have been:—S.s. Silja, with 500 tons; s.s. Cavallo, with 300 tons; s.s. Gulf of Suez, with 120 tons; but only a small proportion was available for market purposes. Transactions were:—Pyrgos, 55s. 6d. to 56s.; cleaned, 58s. to 62s. (in request); Zante, bags, 57s. to 59s.; Gulf and Panariti, 59s. to 63s.; Vostizza, 63s. to 73s.; Smalls, 68s. to 72s. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 56s.; Amalias and Patras, 57s. to 60s.; Zante, 57s. to 61s.; Gulf and Panariti, 58s. to 63s.; Vostizza, 63s. to 73s. Further arrivals of Australian 2 and 3 Crowns, per s.s. Anchises, sold at 69s. to 71s. respectively.

Raisins.—Cape selling freely at 38s. to 40s. f.a.q. and 45s. g.a.q. A few Australian Lexias realised 45s.

Sultanas.—We are unable to report an improvement in the state of our market, which remains dull, business being of quite insignificant dimensions. Some forced quay sales of the last arrivals per Egyptian from Smyrna caused a drop in prices, and some excellent parcels changed hands at 70s. to 72s. 6d. In the fine grades some sales at 80s. to 85s. are reported. Greeks, slow of sale at 70s. to 78s. Australians, difficult to move at 90s. 2 Crowns and 95s. 3 Crowns, the turnover being most disappointing. South Africans, Sundried selling 65s. to 70s. Afghans, with the exception of yellow at 60s. to 65s., are neglected.

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THE CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET.

The following extracts are taken from a report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Constantinople for the month of June :—

There is no appreciable change to note since last month regarding our market. As it was easy to predict, trade could not improve whilst the political situation remains unchanged.

There has been some activity in manufactured goods owing to orders from Persia and to the small but regular shipments made for Anatolia. Stocks, which are almost exhausted, are being continually renewed, but importers dare not place more than small orders.

Cabots.—Owing to orders from Persia and to a lesser extent from Anatolia, there is a certain movement in cabots. The cabot, which used to take first place amongst manufactured articles, has fallen back enormously since Roumanian buyers have made a habit of passing their orders direct to the countries of origin. The present stock of cabots here amounts to 150-200 bales, and the prices have not varied.

Empty Sacks from Calcutta.—For the same reason as in the case of cabots, transactions in empty sacks have lost their former importance.

Sugar.—In the countries producing sugar the fall in price which has been ruling for some time still continues. This is the more marked owing to the news that the next harvest will be abundant. The steps taken by holders of American sugar, with a view to keeping up prices, have not met with success so far. Prices at present ruling for sugar are as follows, per ton and in transit :—American, £35 10s. to £34 ; Dutch, £33 10s. to £34 ; Java, £33 to £34. Sugar in bond now costs : Crystallised, £T44 to £T45 per 100 kilos ; cube, £T47 to £T48 per 100 kilos.

Coffee.—After some unimportant fluctuations in price, coffee remained firm for some time. Nevertheless there has been a tendency to fall of late. This is due to the abundance of the new crop and to the haste with which holders are liquidating their stocks. This market has, in spite of the present general state of things, proceeded to purchase some lots, to be delivered next month. However, news concerning this article from abroad not being very reassuring, has rendered business uncertain. The present stock amounts to 2,500 sacks of coffee, prices for which are :—Ps. 57 to 62 per oke for goods in transit ; Ps. 91 to 96 per oke for goods in bond, according to qualities.

Rice.—Owing to lack of orders from the countries which usually apply to us for supplies, business in this commodity is insignificant. Local consumption, especially at this time of the year, is very restricted. Prices in transit :—Rangoon, £14 to £14 10s. per ton ; Siam, £15 per ton.

Wheat and Flour.—Dealers in flour have been able to use up their stocks during the month under review, and thus proceed to place new orders in America, but almost exclusively in wheat, the new customs laws rendering the importation of flour almost impossible. The present stock is about 60,000 sacks of flour of different qualities.

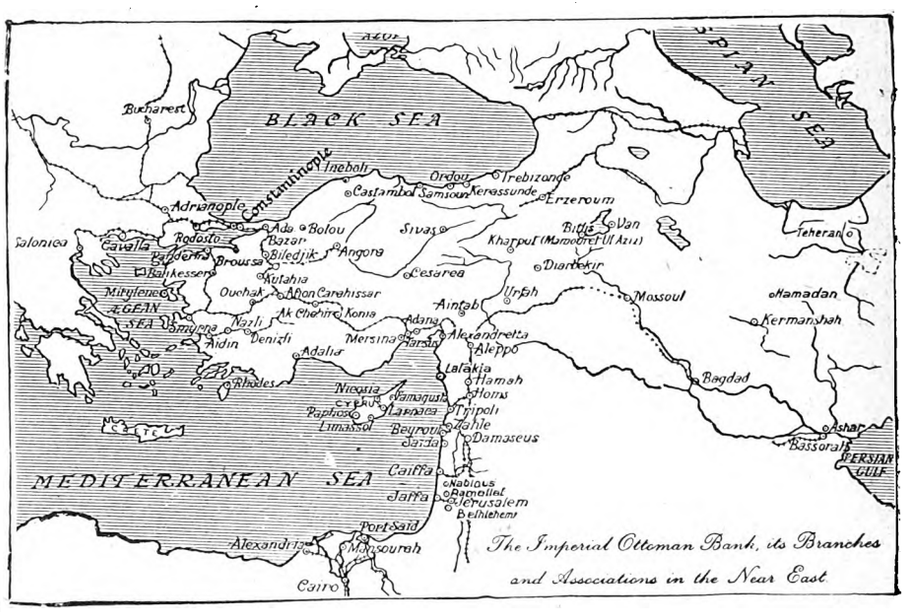
Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output :—Week ended July 6 : Gemsah production, 12 tons (previous week, 2 tons) ; Hurghada, 3,096 tons (against 2,846 tons).

The Levant Company announces that the scheme for the writing down of the capital and the reorganisation of the company has been confirmed by the Court, and that an issue of 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each is being offered to the old shareholders, of which the greater part has already been assured.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



CONSTANTINOPLE.

L. STEEG, Director-General.
A. H. REID, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR, E. HODLER } Sub-Directors. DJEVIAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

General Committee.

LONDON.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET, G.B.E.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I. K.B.E., C.I.E., M.P
LORD HILLINGDON.
GENERAL THE HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P., P.C.
LIEUT.-COL. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE FREDERIC PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office : 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager : E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary : C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary : R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager : W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.
PARIS: 7, Rue Meyerbeer.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan
CONSTANTINOPLE. (Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.
Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

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Shipping Intelligence.

SHIPPING OF CONSTANTZA IN 1922

Constantza serves chiefly as a transit port for the rest of Roumania, importing for the other parts of the country, and exporting principally petroleum products and grain, for the loading of which alone can facilities be said to exist (says the British Vice-Consul at Constantza, Mr. R. H. Tottenham Smith, in his report for 1922). Much of the trade of the port was lost to Galatz and Braila after the war owing to the destruction of the railway bridge over the Danube. The reconstruction of this was completed early in the year, and the position in respect of communications thereby improved. The trade of the port is still, however, behind that of the last normal pre-war year, 1913.

The exports through Constantza during the year amounted to some 485,560 tons, and the imports to 218,692 tons. The principal countries to which goods have been shipped are Italy, Turkey, Egypt, Belgium, France and England. Petroleum products have gone to Egypt, Turkey, England, Italy, France and Greece, and agricultural products to Italy, Belgium, France, Greece and Turkey. In the month of May, 1922, it was calculated that of the total exports of Roumania, 8 per cent. of the cereals, 37 per cent. of the petrol products, 0.35 per cent. of the timber, and 2 per cent. of the live stock were exported through Constantza.

Very few fresh works have been undertaken or completed. A small quay in the inner harbour for motor boats and small craft is being constructed, and one additional warehouse has been completed. Warehousing space, on the whole, is inadequate, and the port is very liable to congestion in winter on this account. The conditions generally, however, are improving slowly, and an additional tax is being levied on shipping to provide funds for improving the port works. A disinfecting station for immigrants is nearing completion.

NEW STRICK LINE STEAMER.

The finely modelled steamer Kohistan, built by Messrs. William Gray and Co., Ltd., West Hartlepool, for Messrs. Frank C. Strick and Co. (1923), Ltd., London, undertook a successful trial trip on June 28. The main dimensions of this vessel are:—Length, overall, 362 ft. 9 in.; breadth, extreme, 52 ft. 6 in.; depth, moulded, 29 ft. 4½ in.; and deadweight about 6,700 tons.

The propelling machinery, supplied by the Central Marine Engine Works of the builders, consists of triple-expansion engines, with cylinders 26 in., 42 in., and 70 in. diameter by 48 in. stroke, and three boilers, 15 ft. diameter by 12 ft. 2 in. long, adapted for a working pressure of 200 lb. per square inch. An oil fuel burning installation is fitted, working in conjunction with Howden's system of forced draught.

A large number of "C.M.E.W." steamship auxiliaries are fitted, including auxiliary condenser, direct contact feed heater, feed water purifying tank, a pair of independent boiler feed pumps, centrifugal pump, combined air and circulating pumps, general service pump, auxiliary harbour feed pump, fuel oil transfer pump, evaporator, and a "C.M.E.W." thermo. couple installation.

The owners were represented by Mr. Black, also Mr. Archibald Walker, under whose superintendence the vessel has been completed.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 25); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 9).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 12); s.s. Holywell for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 21).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, July 18); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, July 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, July 20); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 3); s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 18).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Maciver for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, July 16); s.s. Clan Malcolm for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Canterbury for Calcutta (Birkenhead, July 12); s.s. City of Chester (Birkenhead, July 28); s.s. City of Yokohama (Birkenhead, August 10).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Venetian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, July 11); s.s. Bavarian for Malta and Alexandria (London, July 18).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Kohistan for Port Sudan and Persian Gulf (Manchester, July 17); s.s. Frankenfels for Persian Gulf (London, July 25).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

Moss Line.—S.s. Siptah for Malta and Alexandria (London, July 13); s.s. Karnak for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Syra, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, July 14).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Gerano for Malta, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, July 21).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, July 13); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 14); s.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, July 27).

Prince Line.—S.s. Algerian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, July 17).

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

July 10.

The exchanges have been very unsettled during the past week, owing to the uncertainty with regard to the Reparations question. German marks reached the new low level of 1,275,000. French francs have weakened to 78.50, while Belgian francs and Italian lire are both lower at 95.45 and 108 respectively. Sterling exchange on New York is slightly lower at 4.56 5/16. In Near Eastern exchanges, Turkish piastres are unchanged at 710, Greek drachmae are slightly harder at 145, Roumanian lei are 910 as against 895, while Bulgarian leva have risen to 450.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	140-150
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	420-435
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1,275,000
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	26.72-26.75
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 5/32-1.4 3/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	95.45
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	910
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	38-42,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 5/32-1.4 3/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	700-720*
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.56¼-4.56⅝
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	78.45-78.55
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	108
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	315-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	575-625,000

*Nominal

Indo-Burma.—May, 4,743.7 barrels, being 3,286.3 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,457.4 barrels from Padaukpin field.

The directors of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate announce an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., compared with 15 per cent. last year

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the approximate fields' gross production of the Steaua Romana Company (Bucharest) for the month of June was 18,010 tons.

Mr. Colin Frederick Campbell, chairman of Forbes Forbes Campbell and Co., has been elected a director of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Sir Duncan Carmichael.

PROPERTY FOR SALE.

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT. City PROPERTY FOR SALE by Private Treaty. TWO substantial and well-kept BUILDINGS, with the land, on separate corner sites in the centre of the best business streets of the City. Each Building consists of SHOPS with OFFICES and FLATS above, all let on short leases at annual rentals amounting to approximately £2000 per building. Either is very suitable for a Shipping, Banking, or Insurance Company requiring a prominent Property in Alexandria. Full particulars on application to Box 50 of this paper.

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Company Meeting.

ORIENTAL TELEPHONE AND ELECTRIC.

Increase of Capital Approved.

The twenty-ninth ordinary general meeting of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Ltd., was held on July 3 at the Abercorn Rooms, Great Eastern Hotel, Bishopsgate, E.C.

Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., C.H., K.C.B., C.S.I., chairman of the company, presided.

The Secretary (Mr. J. Macleod) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that the net result of the year's operations was that the balance of revenue carried to the balance-sheet was £49,010, as against £49,227 last year. The board recommended the payment of a final dividend on the ordinary shares at 6 per cent., free of income-tax, making 10 per cent., free of income-tax, for the year, and also a bonus of 2 per cent., free of income-tax, on the ordinary shares. That was the same rate as last year. They also recommended the transfer of £10,000 to the depreciation and general reserve account, and of £2,000 to the staff pension fund, these amounts being the same as last year. If they approved these recommendations they would be left with £9,274 to carry forward to next year. He mentioned last year that the number of exchange lines in the systems worked by the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company, Ltd., and the associated companies, was in December, 1921, 35,000. It was on December 31, 1922, 37,513, an increase of 2,513, being at the rate of 7 per cent. for the year.

This rate of progress was not so rapid as that which had been realised in recent years, but it had to be remembered that there were several causes to account for this result. Business conditions had been unfavourable, and it would be readily understood that the rate of entension of the telephone service was not a bad index of the prevailing business prosperity or the reverse.

He dealt at some length at their meeting last year with the question of the Indian licences and also with the negotiations regarding their licences at Hong Kong and Singapore. In India, the new agreements between the Bombay and Bengal companies and the Indian Government had already been signed. Since then the agreements relating to Madras and Rangoon had also been signed. A new local company had been formed at Madras and had taken over the undertaking, the transfer price of £110,000 being satisfied by fully-paid shares in the new company. In Rangoon a similar course was being pursued, the transfer consideration in this case being £145,000, also payable in fully-paid shares of the new company. They had now obtained, under the terms of the new agreement, an undisturbed tenure for twenty years from 1923, and had undertaken certain obligations as to provision of thoroughly efficient and modern plant. The provisions as to rates sanctioned an increased maximum, and also provided for periodical revision on the basis of a standard dividend of 12½ per cent. on the paid-up capital—of which 8 per cent. was cumulative—after due allowance, not exceeding 8 per cent. per annum, for depreciation and reserve.

The Bombay and Bengal companies had been reorganised, and steps had been taken for raising the additional capital required for the modernisation and extension of the systems.

Although demands for capital would be to some extent met by local capital, where local companies had been formed, it would still be necessary for the Oriental Company to bear a large part of the burden, and they found it necessary for that purpose to ask them to sanction an increase in the capital of the company in both preference and ordinary shares. They proposed to increase the authorised ordinary share capital from 300,000 to 600,000 shares of £1 each, and the authorised preference share capital from 100,000 to 300,000 shares of £1 each. As the preference shareholders were asked to assent to that substantial increase in the preference issue, they thought it right that they should have some increase in the rate of interest in the preference shares, and they proposed that the rate should be raised from 6 per cent. to 7 per cent.

It was not the board's intention to issue at once the whole of the additional capital when it was created. The sum of about £300,000 would suffice for present needs, and they proposed to offer to the ordinary shareholders on the register on July 1, 1923, one new ordinary share at par and one new preference share at par for every two shares held. The ordinary and preference shares thus offered would not be separable.

Mr. G. Parker Ness seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

At the extraordinary general meeting which followed resolutions increasing the rate of interest on the existing preference shares to 7 per cent., and modifying the articles of association, as proposed by the notice, were carried.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Canvas, W.P. (Chocolate Colour), and Canvas, Coarse (Coloured).—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for canvas, W.P. (chocolate colour), and canvas (coarse, coloured). July 16.

Hides.—The Egyptian War Department invites tenders for hides. July 18.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

A Royal Charter of Incorporation has been granted to the Federation of British Industries.

British Burmah.—June production of crude by this company and Rangoon Oil Company, 58,129 barrels.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Output.—Gemsah (week ended June 22), 9 tons (previous week 13 tons). Hurghada, 3,077 tons (against 2,798 tons).

The Canadian Pacific Railway is to have a separate pavilion at the British Empire Exhibition covering an area of 9,800 square feet.

Two leading Cardiff and Newport firms of exporters have secured an order for 160,000 metric tons of steam coal for the Egyptian and Sudan State Railways.

The Bank of British West Africa, Ltd., announce a final dividend to March 31 of 3 per cent., making, with the interim dividend paid in December, 5 per cent. for the year, less tax.

Constantinople Telephone.—Coupons on 6 per cent. obligations and 6 per cent. certificates due July 1, 1923, are payable on or after that date at Imperial Ottoman Bank, 26, Throgmorton Street, E.C.

In the House of Commons on June 27 the financial resolution authorising the raising by loan in this country by the Secretary for India of fifty millions for productive purposes and fifteen millions for general purposes of the Government of India was agreed to.

The Government of India has imposed a Customs duty on apparatus for wireless telegraphs imported into India at the rate of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*. The importation of such apparatus by other than a duly licensed person under the Indian Telegraph Act is prohibited except under licence from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs.

Sir Duncan Carmichael, who died on June 22 in London, aged fifty-seven, was a partner in Messrs. Gray, Dawes, and Co., also in the firm of Mackinnon, Mackenzie, and Co., Calcutta, Bombay, and Karachi, Indian agents to the British India Steam Navigation Company, and a director of the P. and O. and of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China.

The exportation is permitted from Roumania, under special authorisation of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, of black mustard seed, wild rapeseed, and spring rapeseed of the last harvest, on payment of the legal export taxes. The export duty (including commission tax) is fixed at 30,000 lei per wagon of 10,000 kilogs., and is payable in sound foreign currency.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 636—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lausanne: The Last Phase.

Angora's capacity for keeping out of touch with realities is unlimited. A week ago agreement was reached at Lausanne on the three questions that were delaying the signature of peace. The news, as soon as it reached Angora, was received with evident public satisfaction; in Turkish circles in Constantinople it evoked genuine expressions of relief and delight. Within twenty-four hours, however, reaction set in at Angora; Constantinople was warned not to believe any reports except those from the Anatolian capital, and the Turkish delegation at Lausanne was instructed to reopen the questions on which Ismet Pasha had formally signified his agreement. With no other country could such an eleventh-hour development have been possible. The head of the delegation instructed to go back upon his pledges would have resigned his post, and there must have been, at least, sufficient stir in the country itself to have cleared up the incongruity of the proceedings. In the case of the Allies' dealings with Turkey nothing of the sort happens. The Lausanne Conference continues, Ismet Pasha prepares to make fresh agreements, which may in turn be repudiated, and the Angora Government is convinced more than ever that it is the salt of the earth and in a position to dictate to the world. Now, as these lines go to press, comes the report that agreement has once more been reached at Lausanne. This time it seems probable that Angora will confirm the statement, and, accordingly, five years after the Armistice, and towards the one hundred and seventieth session of the Lausanne Conference, an end will have been placed to the state of war nominally existing between Turkey and the Allies.

The Taming of Turkey.

In spite of all this, however, it must be clear to every thinking person that in all the circumstances the Allies' patient tolerance has been the wisest policy to adopt. Turkey would have every reason to be grateful if a swift and severe lesson could be read to the backwoodsmen of Anatolia, who are making their country an object of the civilised world's contempt and disgust; but in this matter the Turks are destined to work out their own salvation. The folly of Angora stops short of the stage at which war would be inevitable, and for the Allies there is no other language that those who now wield power in Turkey understand. There can be no doubt, however, that the population of Turkey contains an element which resents the disservice which is being done to the Turks as a whole. Provided, therefore, that the Allies can maintain their present policy indefinitely, it may not be a bad thing for the Angora régime to pile on the agony. To a certain point the spectacle of their country holding its own against the nations of the world is one that must appeal to all Turks; it is only when physical resistance has ceased to play its part and gives place to obstinacy born of ignorance or lack of intellect that the nation's reputation becomes involved. Each day that passes now sees the number of Turks dissatisfied with the Angora régime increasing. Consequently, the more foolish and the more exasperating the conduct of the Turkish Government, the shorter the interval to the time when Allied interests in Turkey may hope to receive reasonable treatment.

The Failure of Angora.

The contradictory reports received from Angora point to a sharp line of cleavage even in the ranks of the Turkish authorities in the capital. Of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, Mr. Alwyn Parker, who signed the agreement for the settlement of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway's claims, writes that he "is a man of remarkable integrity and piercing insight, and all his weight is thrown on to the side of moderation." Yet another representative of British interests finds himself confronted with an attempt at undisguised robbery on the part of the spokesman of the Angora Government. In Constantinople the Galata Bridge toll-money is forcibly appropriated by someone in authority, while the Governor of the city unofficially denounces the act. Mustapha Kemal Pasha will not be the first man who, in coming to the rescue of his country, has aroused forces that he has subsequently been unable to control. Unfortunately, he does not appear to have been able to dissociate himself suffi-

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ciently from his extremist section to satisfy the Turkish moderates that the country can be won to a saner policy with his help. The part that he played in the elections may have gained for him a great personal success; but it is difficult for the onlooker to see in it either piercing insight or common-sense. Every allowance can be made for men who have experienced the hardships associated with the Kemalist movement, among which has to be reckoned for many the deportation at the hands of the British Government to Malta; but Angora has failed in not being able to realise where the boundary line between the penalisation of foreign interests and the promotion of Turkish interests is situated. It will come to grief ultimately for its failure in regard to the latter, which will one day loom larger in Turkish eyes, than its success in regard to the former.

Yugoslavia.

In spite of the precarious position that his Government holds in Yugoslavia as a result of its numerical weakness in the Skupshtina, M. Pashitch is making the most of the opportunity afforded him by the mistaken tactics of the Croatian leader, M. Raditch. He has not hesitated to carry war into the Croatian camp, and M. Raditch is now calling upon the Croats to carry out a boycott of everything Serbian. More important than this quarrel, in which the federal-centralist issue is for the time being lost sight of in the personal clash, is the step taken by the Cabinet in passing through the Skupshtina a measure for the fivefold increase of the land tax. Hitherto all Yugoslav Governments have preferred to face any deficit rather than impose upon the peasants, who form 80 per cent. of the electorate, a just share of taxation. The greatest sufferers are the officials of the new kingdom, who are grossly underpaid, to the prejudice of the State service and of Yugoslavia's reputation. With more revenue in the Exchequer it is to be hoped that it will be found possible to increase official salaries, even if it be necessary to curtail the military vote in order to do so. The Yugoslav Government has followed its Roumanian neighbour in recognising the necessity for financial equilibrium. Perhaps, after the conference shortly to be held at Sinaia it will realise the possibility of further reductions in the army, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the civil service.

Palestine's Troubles.

A further outrage by brigands in Palestine, this time on the railway in the northern sector, following hard upon the murder of Captain Swann, near Ramleh, and the report of an engagement between a detachment of British gendarmerie and a band in the south suggest that for the moment the security of the country is far more important than its constitution. Palestine, unfortunately, lends itself to the activities of bandits, but it is an axiom in all countries that these gentry can flourish only with the connivance in the long run of the villagers in the neighbourhood where they operate. The authorities, therefore, have done well to take prompt police measures against the villagers. All Mukhtars of neighbouring and suspected villages have been arrested, and stocks of cattle have been impounded as guarantees that the villagers will assist in the pursuit of the men responsible for the shooting of railway officials on a motor rail-trolley between Tel Keram and Kilkilieh. Sooner or later the villagers themselves are the victims of the brigands, unless they purchase exemption, and it is to their interests, therefore, to support measures for the suppression of the bands. The Palestine Government, we trust, will regard the brigandage question very seriously, and will take steps to ensure that within three months the country will be cleared of all brigands at present on the active list so effectively that others will not feel inclined to take up the profession.

Self-Help in the Hejaz.

The microbe of independence, which caused Naaman to rank the rivers Abana and Pharpar as high as the Jordan, has never been exorcised from the descendants of Shem, and to-day the Egyptians, having successfully demonstrated the equality of nations in their own case, are called upon to consider the doctrine from a different angle. The King of the Hejaz has raised objections to the entry of an Egyptian medical mission, which in the past has accompanied the pilgrimage to Mecca. It has to be inferred that the feelings of the Hejazis are as outraged at the attendance in their midst of Egyptian doctors as the Egyptians themselves at the presence in Egypt of a British financial adviser or irrigation expert. There can, of course, be no comparison between the unqualified practitioner who controls quarantine measures at Jeddah and the skilled medical officers whom Egypt can lend to the Hejaz, and it will, no doubt, cause the gravest misgivings to the pilgrims to be deprived of the first-rate medical attention available for them in the past. They may, perhaps, feel tempted to sympathise for the first time with the British in Egypt, who have been accustomed to place British knowledge and administrative experience as high above Egyptian attainments as the Egyptians rightly place their own capacity above that of the Hejazis. The British, however, have reconciled themselves to the cult of the second-best in Egypt, and the interests of peace and the pilgrimage would seem to suggest that the Egyptians should adopt a similar attitude towards the Hejazis in their efforts to stand on their dignity. In the meantime the Holy Carpet returns to Cairo from an abortive journey, and the Hejaz sacrifices a grant of £8,000 in the noble cause of independence.

Persia and Irak.

Until conditions in Persia are sufficiently stabilised to make correct relations with its neighbours one of the cardinal points of the Persian Government's policy, the Irak Government is likely to have a certain amount of trouble with ecclesiastical fanatics in its midst. As far as the principal Holy Cities—Kerbela and Nejef—are concerned, it should not be difficult to devise a *modus vivendi* that will satisfy the priestly authorities that they have nothing much to fear in regard to their special privileges, provided that they do not set themselves up in active opposition to the State. To have these two towns more or less in political watertight compartments for a period will not be a very serious embarrassment to the country, and it may strengthen the hands of the Government to show this amount of deference to the Shiah hierarchy until public opinion has had time to compare the respective merits of civil and priestly rule. So long, however, as Shiah priests are led to suppose that they can count on some measure of Persian support for intrigue against the Irak Government, so long will it be necessary for the latter to deal firmly with agitation such as that which has led to the deportation of the Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi and his two sons who tried to stir up trouble in Khazimain. It would be a friendly act on the part of the Persian Government to discourage all attempts to agitate on Persian soil against Irak or Great Britain.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Heat Wave.

Every generation, one supposes, thinks it has a monopoly of the unreliability of the English climate, which must always have been the most perfectly wanton thing ever created; but even by the old people, who remember snow at Christmas and sunshine in June, and all the other proprieties, it is admitted that we are experiencing entirely new joys and sorrows. This last week it has been too wearisome even to fret under the heat; one's main thoughts have been, for the male, what to drink, and for the female, wherewithal she shall be clothed. The colossal storm which early last week smote us with such force as to be one of the heaviest on record, is now ancient and tiresome history; its only interest lies in the fact deduced from it, that, whereas we used to look upon a storm as the breaker-up of a heat-wave, now we cannot reckon even upon that. In fact, the weather in these 'twenties has become quite unreckonable, inexplicable, and incorrigible. But, of course, we all take it as it comes. The more sensible of us have already fled to the seaside: for those who are left to work, London seems like a brazen prison, with the railway carriages in which one has to travel giving off heat like furnaces. In all good smoking compartments men throw off their coats and stew in their shirts; the women, of course, have already "said when" in regard to their attire.

Reparations and Other Things.

Compared with the weather, nothing that has recently happened has been of any account. The news that peace was to be signed at Lausanne caused not a single extra drop of perspiration; and we did not mop our brows when we learned that it was not to be signed so soon, after all. The papers made a brave effort to get us interested in Mr. Baldwin's speech on reparations, and, indeed, we all did our duty towards his sensible utterance; but, on hearing that France would definitely have none of it until passive resistance in the Ruhr ceased, we at once, and without a sigh, got back to our flannels and dreams of coolth and ease. One suspects that the world will have to wait for the weather before strong action comes from Britain; if we can do nothing but drink in the day and anything but sleep at night, what can you expect? Still, in spite of all that the Meteorological Office may say, a change may come any day; and it is obvious that Mr. Baldwin is determined soon to solve the Reparations problem. His attitude is extremely popular in the country.

European Peace.

Although it was expected, it was nevertheless extremely comforting to find in the Premier's speech none of the sloppy talk that issues from the feeble-minded about forgiveness of Germany. He spoke well on the evil that the occupation of the Ruhr is doing to the economic life of Europe, and particularly to our own economic future—that was well within his province, and indeed was his duty; but he spoke equally well on sympathy with France and on Britain's determination to extract Reparations. Yet to some extent this straight, plain speech has been misunderstood, and we have had floods of the terrible wearying nonsense about breaking with France and taking Germany by the hand to lead her to the blessed ways of reconstruction. Once more, and still more nauseatingly, we have been told that a nation like Germany cannot be destroyed (though these very same people persist in saying that such destruction is the inevitable consequence of a prolonged occupation of the Ruhr); but they are seen for the pacifists they are, and cut no more ice than they deserve. We may take it now that the French and British Governments are at one in their estimate of Germany's mental attitude; and the difference which separates them upon the best means of getting reparations will certainly not cause a definite break-up of the Entente. If I were a Frenchman I should certainly back M. Poincaré, because, not being one, I still find it the most sensible thing to do.

Lord's Week.

Lord's Week—in other words, Cambridge—suffered badly from the weather. One cannot begrudge the fact that Oxford, who won so overwhelmingly by an innings and over two hundred runs, were probably the better side; but the storm on Monday night took all the fight out of the match. To those who sleeplessly cursed the luck of the Light Blues, the result was a foregone conclusion; but it was hopelessly confirmed by a look at the poisonous wicket with the sun shining on it. The second day was a melancholy affair, with little enthusiasm.

Things were better ordered for the Eton and Harrow match, which ended in a draw, much in Eton's favour. The pitch was too replete with runs—there were two centuries for Eton and one for Harrow—for the probability of any result; but the game was interesting, apart from some excellent batting and fielding, as showing how bad schoolboy bowling can be. Such indulgence in "polyhoppers" should really not be tolerated.

The Gentlemen versus Players game should be a fine match. The Players team is a good and dependable one; the Gentlemen will do either gloriously or ingloriously—there is nothing mediocre or certain about them. If the heat decreases a little, it will be the game of the season.

Albert Chevalier.

There were few people in this country who did not notice the death of Albert Chevalier, a loved and very lovable stage artist. Chevalier was a very fine, because very typical, English artist; he spurned all "method" and appealed straight to the heart. The highbrow who was oppressed by his sentimentality would speak admiringly of his "technique"; but, in fact, it was to the core of the matter that Chevalier travelled; his technical facilities were natural and unconscious. It is possible that no coster ever existed such as his coster im-

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personation was, but the English public adores exaggeration, especially if it is lovingly done, and everything Chevalier did was done with loving purpose. Sentimentality on the stage, particularly on the music hall stage, is probably the most nauseating feature of to-day; but Chevalier's sentimentality was always of a different *genre* from that of others; it never existed for its own sake, and was, therefore, at worst tolerable, and at best an inseparable part of a much higher thing. To say that he commanded both tears and laughter is a commonplace; but to say that he employed this combined command uniquely is the bare truth. Although he was typical, he was never a type; and it may be long before the stage finds so refreshing and rare a spirit as his.

Lady Astor's Bill.

By a majority of 257 votes to 10 Lady Astor contrived to get passed by the House of Commons her notorious Bill, which raises to eighteen the age at which intoxicants may be bought in public-houses. It says much for the sentiment of the members who voted for it, but very little for their sense, for in truth the Bill is the worst kind of Puritanical legislation. Lady Astor's mind derives from the seventeenth century, which, when it saw that excessive indulgence in harmless pleasures produced danger to the State, vented its condemnation on the pleasure itself, and sought to bind the offender hand and foot. The 257 members who voted for this Bill do not see that in drinking itself is no harm, but that it is the system under which drinking in this country is permitted that is wrong. Compare our public-houses with, say, the cafés of France, in which whole families happily congregate, and then declare whether it is drink itself or the law governing potation that is wrong.

ALTER EGO.

The Soviet Government has recalled the Repatriation Commission from Bulgaria.

A Palestine Arab Delegation left Jaffa on July 15 direct for London to lay its case before the Government. Funds have been provided from a private source.

Washington announces that the immigration quotas of Egypt, Turkey, Palestine, Syria, Albania, Africa, and certain smaller countries have been exhausted for July.

The Treasurers of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, 15, Tufton Street, Westminster, S.W., acknowledge the receipt of a donation of £500 towards its work in India.

"The Indian Question in Kenya Colony" formed the subject of discussion at a drawing-room meeting to meet members of the European delegation from Kenya Colony and the Kenya Women's Committee, which has been formed to represent the interests of European women in Kenya, held last Monday at the residence of Lady McMillan, 19, High Street, W.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

THE LEBANON HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISEASES.

The annual general meeting of the Lebanon Hospital for Mental Diseases, Asfuriyeh, Beyrout, was held at the rooms of the Medical Society of London, 11, Chandos Street, Cavendish Square, on June 19, the chair being taken first by Dr. R. Percy Smith and later by Dr. Masterman.

The committee's report for the past year, March, 1922-23, was read by the general secretary, Miss A. M. Gooch, and its adoption was moved by Bishop Bury (Bishop of Northern and Central Europe) and seconded by Mr. Martindale.

Dr. Watson Smith, the director, said that when he came home four years ago he had nothing to report upon, except the dilapidated condition there. They were needing bread, so that there was no money to spend on buildings and repairs, but now they had a quite different story to tell. He always thought that if anything like a responsible Government were to exercise its influence in Syria things would improve, for Syria had been ruined in the past from every point of view. Since the French came into Beyrout the public health authorities had taken up the question of dealing with the insane, and now contributed a certain amount towards the maintenance of the patients, thus liberating a certain amount of money which had been used in improving the hospital. The first matter which demanded attention was the water supply. They used to have one spring, which supplied the hospital imperfectly. The rains fell only in winter months, and as during the six summer months absolutely no rain came, the springs failed by November. The Executive Committee dealt promptly with the matter. They followed up some old springs, which greatly added to the water supply, so that they were now somewhat better able to meet immediate hospital requirements, but he could not say that this was at all adequate. They had not a drop of water for cultivation. By the end of July everything was burnt up by the sun. It would materially help in the treatment of the patients if they had plentiful water for baths. They could also add considerably to the economic management of the hospital by cultivating vegetables and food for animals, and thus have their own dairy.

All the buildings were in a better condition than they had ever been before. The kitchen had been thoroughly repaired and means of procuring hot water supplied. The Strawbridge House given by American friends had been furnished and made ready for women patients. The old air gas light machines were sold, and the pharmacy taken to this spot in the centre of the buildings, which was decidedly more convenient than by the entrance as before. A clinical laboratory had also been added. The London Committee sent the money to instal the electric light, which was a great success, and was sufficiently large to meet the demands of an increase up to one-third beyond the present needs. In connection with the American University in Beyrout, they had started classes for the teaching of psychiatry, so the influence of the hospital was extended beyond its immediate sphere. Formerly these students had no training in mental diseases; they now came to Asfuriyeh and heard lectures on mental diseases; also they received clinical instruction. They still needed an electro-medical installation for the hospital in order to bring their means of treatment up to modern demands, and they were hoping that someone would kindly provide this very necessary addition as soon as possible.

A tablet is to be placed on No. 2, Carlton Gardens to commemorate the residence there of Lord Kitchener.

The number of Jewish immigrants who entered Palestine during the five months ended May was 4,080—1,647 men, 1,345 women, and 1,088 children.

Ratifications of the Roumano-Polish Sanitary Convention concluded in Warsaw on December 20, 1922, were exchanged on July 12 in Bucharest.

An appeal has been lodged against the conviction of the thirteen persons accused of conspiracy and of murdering British officials in Egypt.

A Reuter message from Teheran states that the deportation from Iraq of the Shiah Mujtahid Sheikh Mahdi el Khalisi has caused excitement in Persia, and that the town guard had to disperse a crowd of demonstrators in front of the British Legation.

Mr. Charles M. G. Ogilvie, of the Punjab Civil Service, has temporarily taken charge of the administration of the Indian State of Nabha (where the Maharaja has abdicated in favour of his son, a minor) pending the return from leave of Mr. Wilson-Johnston, the newly-appointed Administrator.

Mgr. Meletios, the Œcumenical Patriarch, reached Mitylene on July 11, and was warmly greeted by the inhabitants of the island. He then transferred to a Greek cruiser, in which he continued his voyage to the Mylopotamos Monastery on Mount Athos. It is announced that it is his intention to pass there the remainder of his life.

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The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, July 5.

The Increase in Taxation.

The Government of M. Pashitch has won a bold and signal victory. The *Dvanajstine*, as the three-months' budget is called (from dvanaestina = one-twelfth, *i.e.*, one month), has been passed by the Skupshtina, and with it the new taxes. Land tax is being increased by 500 per cent., and income-tax by 30 per cent., which means an annual increase of half-a-million dinars in the revenue.

This increase in taxation, especially in the land tax, was a necessity of State, which not even the extreme Opposition sought to deny. All the same, it seemed almost impossible that it would obtain the necessary majority in Parliament. It must not be forgotten that the standard by which legislation, and more especially new and unpopular taxation, is judged in Yugoslavia, is not expediency, but the temper of the electorate. Now more than 80 per cent. of the electors are peasants, traditionally pampered by all the parties and habitually told that the peasant is the true prop of the State. This is correct enough in many ways, but quite untrue as regards taxation. Before the War the peasant had to sell at least a calf in order to pay his taxes; now he can raise the necessary sum by selling a dozen or so of eggs. The explanation of this anomaly is that the taxes have nominally remained the same, whereas the price of provisions has gone up far beyond 100 per cent. The natural consequence of this in the early days after the Liberation was recourse to the issue of paper currency which, in its turn, led inevitably to a fall in the rate of exchange, and automatically entailed a growing deficit in the State budget. Certainly the former Coalition Government made an effort to get the budget to balance. New taxes were introduced (as, *e.g.*, the 1 per cent. tax on business turnover), but the Government lacked the courage to raise the land tax. As a makeshift it increased the various dues—which could be done without special legislation—and so incidentally deflected the wrath of the electorate solely upon the Minister of Finance. But these were mere half-measures; because it is obvious that in order to be sound, a State's finances must rest above all on ordinary, and not upon extraordinary, expenditure; and dues are extraordinary expenditure. The most important of the ordinary taxes is unquestionably the land tax, and the following may serve to illustrate how entirely justifiable, nay, desirable, was an increase in this direction. Of all parts of the State, Slovenia contributes most conscientiously to the land tax, owing to a faultlessly drawn-up land register. Yet the total revenue from land tax in Slovenia does not amount to as much as the upkeep of the stud in Liubliana!

The Land Tax.

Yet there was a fierce fight over the passing of the new land tax, and the Opposition parties lost no opportunity of playing for popularity by "making a stand" against the new taxation. Under the influence of this agitation sharp hostility to the measure broke out even within the ranks of the Radical Club. Led by Deputy Rankovitch, Vice-President of the Skupshtina, the Agrarian deputies demanded that the proposed increase in the land tax should be dropped altogether. But the Minister of Finance was not to be moved. Then the Agrarian deputies demanded that the land tax might be paid in State Bonds and War Indemnity Securities. But the State wants money, and not its own credit, and again the Minister of Finance refused to give way. The struggle became acute, and it almost seemed as though the Minister of Finance would be compelled to resign. Then M. Pashitch threw the whole weight of his influence into the balance. The situation was saved, and the Radical Club voted solidly for the new taxes.

Two symptoms show the severity of the struggle. The German deputies, who had so far loyally supported the Radicals in all other questions, left them in the lurch over the land tax, party interests proving stronger than economic interests. And the Slovene Koroshets Party threatened to leave the Skupshtina in a body if the new taxes were passed. Even this threat did not shake the Minister of Finance in his purpose; and probably even Dr. Koroshets realised in the end that it would scarcely look well if a highly necessary increase in taxation were the reason for his boycotting the Skupshtina.

Compulsory Labour Service.

Together with the new taxes, Universal Labour Conscription for the repair of roads and highways has been brought in. Every male citizen is bound for one fortnight in the year to work without pay at the improvement of the public roads. Owners of horses and vehicles have to give the use of their animals and conveyances free of charge for the same period. Whoever desires exemption from this obligation has to pay a fairly large sum. As all the public roads were extensively used during the War and practically no repairing was done, the roads in Yugoslavia are now in a truly disgraceful state. On the other hand, the cost of labour is at present so high that the State cannot afford out of its pocket to have them repaired within a short space of time. For these reasons Universal Conscription of Labour is certainly justified. But whether the Yugoslav Administration is capable of carrying through this conscription justly and usefully is another question. Certainly the engineers will have a big say in the matter. All the same, we feel rather pessimistic about it.

But the taxes just approved are by no means the last of the new burdens—rather the prelude to fresh taxation.

State Officials.

The Skupshtina has been prorogued for nine days to enable the deputies to pacify their rebellious constituencies. But on July 9 it will reassemble to discuss the important Army Law and to solve the State officials and employees' question. The Army Law will in all probability have a smooth passage, and be accepted without special difficul-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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ties, to judge by the discussion in committee. But there will be a stiff fight over the officials question, although in committee all parties were unanimous for a favourable solution of the problem. The Radical Government will not content itself with academic assurances, and demands that a balance should be established between the rise in the officials' salaries and the taxes needful for that purpose. Nor is this all. The Minister of Finance also demands a "cut" in the number of officials as the only way of determining what funds he will have at his disposal for raising the salaries of those that are left. Hence the Government will place the Opposition before a very awkward alternative—either to vote for the taxes and prove that the party was in earnest about improving the lot of the officials, or to vote against them and so against the measure designed to help the officials as well. This may break the hostility of the Opposition parties towards the new taxes required for the settlement of this question of officials' salaries; but not the opposition of the Agrarian Deputies in the Radical Club, who will wish to get a bit of their own back as a set-off against their discomfiture over the Land Tax.

Pashitch and Raditch.

All the same, we may assume that M. Pashitch's Government will again prove victorious, and that on account of M. Raditch's attitude. M. Raditch's speeches make a big impression upon the Croatian peasant, but a far bigger one upon his Serbian *confrère*. And the more energetically M. Pashitch fulminates against M. Raditch, the more closely do the Serbs rally round him, regardless of party allegiance. This was made amply clear on the occasion of the recent attempt upon the Prime Minister's life, when even Sarajevo—the Croat and Moslem City—demonstrated for M. Pashitch. And so the Prime Minister's authority will surely preserve unity in the Radical Club over this question also and make the new taxes possible.

The Chances of M. Raditch.

The *rapprochement* between the Radicals and M. Raditch has come to an end. The Government forbade M. Raditch's mass meeting in Zagreb; whereupon M. Raditch declared ruthless war upon the Government, but apparently without the courage to prosecute it to its logical conclusion. He proposes somehow to vanquish the Belgrade Government by some nebulous effect of perfect passive resistance. His watchword to the peasants is—not to undertake anything active against the Government, but to obey every order of the authorities; to suffer even the confiscation of the Republican colours, since no flag is worth a drop of blood. But if an opponent of M. Raditch's party comes into the village, then none shall give him food or house-room.

How this line of action—or inaction—is to overthrow the Government is one of M. Raditch's mysteries. But he has other grounds for hope—above all, those forthcoming elections at which he will surely obtain over one hundred Deputies. Nothing is impossible in this world, more especially in Yugoslavia, and so we will admit the chance that M. Raditch's plan might succeed. Yet it is doubtful whether he would, even with the greatest good luck, obtain a clear majority in the Skupshtina. He will still be compelled to do what he now declines to do—namely, to come to an agreement with the ruling Serbian party, and as a preliminary condition to jettison his "humanitarian pacifist peasant republic," and put in an appearance in the Belgrade Skupshtina as a fellow Deputy.

But can M. Raditch afford to do this after his oratorical flights to the clouds? Has he the necessary courage? We for our part believe an emphatic "No" to be the correct answer to both questions. Because M. Raditch has two things to fear. Were he to agitate in Belgrade as he does in Zagreb, his life would be in danger from the Serbs. And if he is conciliatory, his Croats in Zagreb might resent it with equal severity. It is a case of Scylla and Charybdis.

So M. Raditch's passive resistance policy is not likely to succeed, and this is beginning to be realised even in Croatia. It is reported from Zagreb that the Croatian intellectuals, who were almost wholly attached to M. Raditch, are gradually being split up in two camps. One group is for an active policy, the other still follows M. Raditch blindly. In Bosnia the opponents to the passive resistance policy are decidedly on the increase, which is fatal to M. Raditch's election calculations.

The Position of Yugoslavia.

Yugoslavia's internal situation is improving, and the passing of fresh taxation is the best proof of it. There is less childlike hope for help from heaven, and more self-help. And that makes for consolidation.

This is beginning to tell in the external situation also. The *coup d'état* in Bulgaria, which might so easily have been a menace to peace, has passed off without ill consequences. Relations with Albania, which used to be so strained, have become truly friendly, and Albania's entry into the Little Entente is becoming more and more probable. Even with Italy, this country's relations are becoming more correct, and that in spite of the still open question of Fiume and frequent annoyance on account of Italy's petty persecution of her Yugoslav subjects.

Only with Hungary the strained footing remains unchanged. Dreams of past glories of the Crown

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of St. Stephen refuse to die out in Hungary. Yet this is the only obstacle to good neighbourly relations between Yugoslavia and the Magyars. It is not for us to judge who is to blame for the constant friction between the two; but one or two things may be pointed out. Was it wise of Budapest to rejoice so openly over the downfall of M. Stambolisky's Serbophil Government? Is it wise that official Hungary should give no ear to the voice of the Deputy Szakacs, who, in the Hungarian Parliament, advocated an agreement with the Little Entente? And that at a moment when Hungary urgently stands in need of an international loan, which can scarcely be realised without the goodwill of the Little Entente.

Unfortunately, Hungary still refuses to face facts, and there lies the whole root of the trouble. Who profits by it? Let Budapest give answer.

GREECE.

Athens, June 27.

General Pangalos.

The sudden dismissal of the Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, General Pangalos, of his Chief of Staff, and of two of the ablest corps commanders caused considerable surprise to everybody here. Even General Pangalos's enemies—and he has many—admit that it is mainly through his efforts and his iron will that the Hellenic Army regained its discipline and its old fighting spirit, thus providing M. Venizelos with that excellent trump card which the ex-Premier played so adroitly in Lausanne.

The Greek public are still in the dark concerning the true reasons of the ex-Commander-in-Chief's dismissal, as the newspapers, acting on strict orders of the Censor, merely published a few lines to the effect that General Pangalos (who a few days previously had a slight attack of dysentery) was granted two months' convalescent leave. The unsuspecting majority have no reason to doubt the accuracy of this information; there are others, however, who could tell an entirely different story concerning an intended *coup d'état*, the establishing of a dictatorship, and finally the creation of still another Republic in Europe. It is understood that one of the Powers is greatly annoyed with Colonel Plastiras, who, by his timely arrival in Salonika, succeeded in convincing General Pangalos that he was badly in need of a long rest. General Pierrakos Mavromihalis, hitherto Minister of War, has been appointed General Pangalos's successor, the former being temporarily replaced by the Prime Minister, Colonel Gonatas.

The Cost of Living.

Although the value of the drachma has improved by about 150 per cent., prices continue to be extremely high. Foreign imported commodities are, of course, considerably cheaper, but the prices of foodstuffs produced locally still remain at inaccessible heights. Cheese, for instance, great quantities of which are produced in this country, is sold at 35 drachmæ the oke, a price at which the best English or French cheese is now obtainable. Olive oil, butter, fruit, and vegetables are so expensive that many big firms are seriously thinking of importing them from Italy. Large quantities of potatoes are now regularly imported from Holland, and sold here at about 3.50 drs., instead of 8 drs. charged by local producers. And to think that only four years ago one could buy two okes of potatoes for 25 lepta! While doing all it can to reduce prices and suppress profiteering, the Government refrains from giving the good example. Quinine, for instance, which is a Government monopoly, is still sold at 6 drs. per tube of ten tablets, that being its price two months ago when the pound was quoted at 420 drs. The same applies to matches, 70 lepta being charged for a box not containing more than forty matches. Rents are even higher than before. For an unfurnished flat in one of the distant districts of Athens, and consisting of five small rooms, one is asked to pay at least 5,000 drs. (approx. £31) per month. The Athens correspondent who telegraphed to his paper in London that Greece was the most expensive country in Europe to-day, was certainly not very far from the truth.

Greek Prisoners in Turkey.

The International Commission appointed at the request of the Greek Government to inquire into and report on the condition of the Greek military prisoners who are still in the hands of the Turks has now completed its work and is about to submit its report. According to this, out of 2,000 Greek officers taken prisoners only 750 are to-day alive. With regard to the men, whereas according to the Turkish official *communiqués* more than 30,000 were taken prisoners (Greek official lists give their number as 54,000), only 14,000 are now alive. "The remainder," says the report, "were undoubtedly exterminated by the Turks." It is understood that the report, which consists of sixty typewritten pages, will be shortly printed in book form and circulated in France, Great Britain, and America.

Miscellaneous News.

The adjudication for the construction of important works at the port of Piræus, which was to have taken place a fortnight ago, has been postponed, as only one competitor representing a group of British and Greek firms presented himself. It is now announced that the adjudication will pro-

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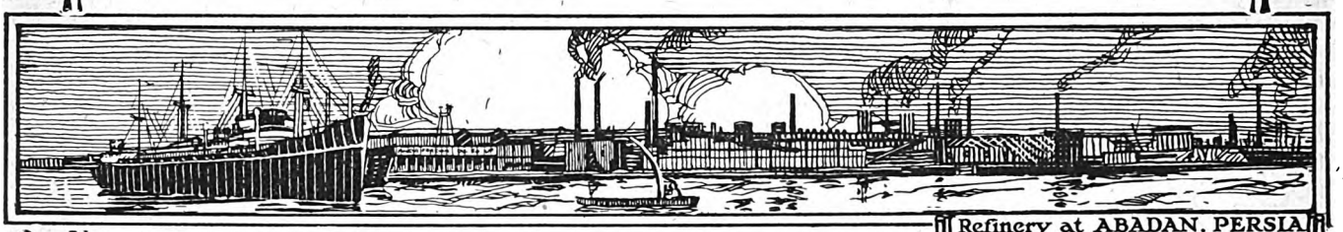

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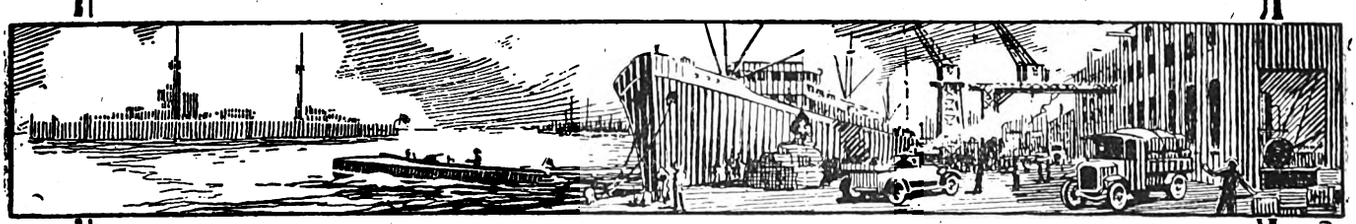

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bably take place on the 29th of this month, the Government having already been notified that four French and one British firm intend to participate.

The Greek s.s. "Niki" has arrived from Smyrna with 600 civilian prisoners, who had been retained as hostages by the Turks. A number of wounded Greek officers also returned by the same boat.

According to the figures of the latest census, the number of refugees now in Greece is 900,000. Of these 67,000 remain in Athens, 52,000 in Piræus, and 86,000 in Salonika. Refugees of independent means are not included in these figures.

According to official statistics, the total population of the Karagatch district, which, in conformity with the Greco-Turkish agreement at Lausanne, will be handed over to Turkey, amounts to 16,700, the majority of whom are refugees from Western Thrace.

Mr. John H. Finley, editor of the *New York Times*, and Vice-President of the Near East Relief Organisation, left on Thursday for Constantinople after spending a week in Greece. Mr. Finley, who is the President of the United States Pedestrian Association, walked from Marathon to Athens under a blazing July sun, covering the distance of about 25½ miles in less than six hours.

At the English Church of St. Paul's, Athens, on June 14 the marriage was celebrated between Mr. J. Harold Clarke and Miss Vasiliki Dimopoulos. The ceremony was performed by the Resident Chaplain, Rev. W. W. Wigram. After the ceremony at the English Church the Greek religious service was held at the house of the bridegroom.

IRAK.

Baghdad, July 5.

The Shiah Ulema.

The outstanding incident of the past few days in Irak has been the commencement of a trial of strength between the Government and the Shiah Ulema as a result of the continued opposition of the latter to participation in the election for the Constituent Assembly. So far the Government appears to have won, but the situation will have to be carefully watched for some time, as it is improbable that the Ulema will be content to leave things as they are without making any effort to rouse the Shiah tribes into action against the Government.

Since the signing of the protocol providing for the early evacuation of this country by the British forces the Irak Government has realised clearly the importance of holding the elections at an early date, has busied itself with the necessary preparations, and has done its best to dissuade those who, a year ago, showed a tendency towards non-participation. A few days ago, however, notices—the authorship of which was traced to Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi, the leading olim of Kazimain, a Persian by nationality, and one who has had a hand in most of the political intrigues with which this country has been cursed during the past two years—were posted in the mosques and on the tombs of the Imams. The tenour of the notices was definitely anti-Government, and, after some deliberation, it was decided to strike at once and to strike hard. Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi and his two sons were, therefore, arrested and sent to Basrah for deportation. This decision was taken by the Council of Ministers and the arrest carried out entirely by Irak Government officials, and the incident is therefore especially noteworthy as being the first action of real importance which the Irak Government has done through its own officials, and this fact will doubtless do much to increase its prestige and to persuade the sceptics that it is not as impotent as they would have people believe.

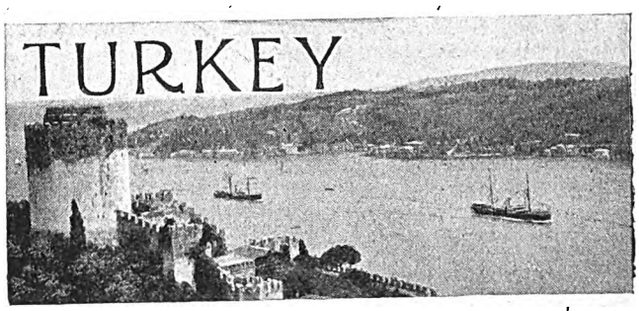
The Government's Action.

In view of the very close connection between politics and religion among the Shiahs, there was a distinct possibility that the Shiah tribes might regard this action as a direct blow at the Shiah community in general, and might be moved to take open action against the Government in consequence. Except, however, for one or two small sections of tribes in the Kerbela district, which put out their banners for a day, but almost immediately took them down again, the tribes appear to have taken little or no notice of the event—a fact which is significant as showing the extent to which the influence of the Ulema has decreased owing to the unscrupulous way in which they have of late years sacrificed their position as religious leaders to become the tools of political intriguers.

The only visible result of the Government's action has been the decision of a very small party of the Persian Ulema of Kerbela and Nejef to return to their homes in Persia. It is to be hoped that Persia will be as pleased to receive them as Irak is to be rid of them.

The King's Tour.

The King has recently made an extensive tour of the country, visiting, first, Mosul, and then Kut, Amarah, Basrah, Nasiriyah, and Diwaniyah. He appears to have been well received, though in some places the number of complaints put forward is said to have been not inconsiderable.



Constantinople, July 3.

Russo-Turkish Relations.

Angora's relations with Moscow have been going from bad to worse, and it does not yet appear that "Excellence" Souritz, the new Bolshevist envoy to Angora, has been able to effect much improve-

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ment. Angora is very busy smelling out Communists and deporting them. Also the breakdown of maritime communications between Constantinople and Black Sea ports in Russian or Turkish ships shows no sign of being patched up. Since the "Bul Djemal" incident in Batoum Angora has refused to allow any goods to be landed in Turkish ports from vessels flying the Soviet's flag. The pother has arisen over the attempt by the Russians to arrogate for their Trade Delegation in Constantinople the rights appertaining to a regularly appointed diplomatic or consular representation. The Turks refused to play up by recognising the necessity of the visa of the Trade Delegation for the import of goods into Russia on Turkish ships, and bluntly told the Russians that they did not recognise any of their consular or other representatives, and saw to it that they took down their official-looking name-plates and retired into private life. The present feeling is one of acute hostility, and has a touch of Gilbertian humour in it, for the Soviet officials know that they owe their comparative immunity from persecution in Constantinople solely to the Allied occupation, and they are dreading the day when their protectors, the hated capitalist Western Powers, will leave them to the devices of the Turks.

July 9.

The Control of Travellers.

The chief local topic of interest during the past week has been the new regulations for the control of travellers which the Government put into operation in a fit of enthusiastic energy, apparently without consulting or forewarning their Constantinople representatives, who would have to face the music when the impracticability of them became obvious. It has not been possible to discover exactly of what the new regulations consisted, but it seems that they enacted that any foreigner, except Allied subjects, was bound to obtain the express authority of Angora to enable him to enter or to leave Turkey. A most effective measure if it was intended to establish a sort of *cordon sanitaire* round the rest of the world, for it is a complicated and slow business getting a reply out of Angora, and very often the Turkish representatives abroad fail to get any reply at all. The immediate result of the regulations was that various foreigners were hauled out of the Orient express at the frontier, a perfectly ghastly spot with no accommodation whatever, and various interested diplomatic personages put on their best clothes and went to see Adnan Bey. The American High Commissioner and representatives of the Swedes, Norwegians, Belgians, and so on followed one another in quick succession to Adnan's front door, and expressed themselves rather vigorously on the subject. Hence a rapid exchange of communications with the Government, and a new set of modifications is published. As far as it is possible to reconcile the various versions, it seems fairly clear that the *status quo ante* has been re-established until the end of the current month as far as Allied and American subjects are concerned, and all that they require is the usual visa from the Consulate which looks after Turkish interests. Another version extends this temporary facility to all foreigners, with the exception of Russians, Bulgarians, Greeks, Albanians, Georgians, and Azerbaijanlis, whose cases have to be referred individually to Angora.

It was refreshing to see that even the Turkish Press, which is not distinguished by a rabidly independent spirit, made some rather peevish comments about the Government's inconsiderate habit of multiplying edicts and counter-edicts. The protest was not very strongly made, but perhaps one cannot expect too much in a country which is kept in order by the elastic law of *lèse-patrie*, which will punish a multitude of sins.

An Amusing Rumour.

Another little storm in a tea-cup was raised by the categorical statements of some of the Turkish papers that a memorial had been handed to the British High Commissioner by certain inhabitants, *including some Turks*, asking for the maintenance of the Allied Military Occupation. The story was allowed a run of several days, for which everyone was profoundly grateful, since the cumulative reports of the affair made amusing reading, and then the Havas-Reuter Agency roughly squashed it by publishing a *démenti* from the High Commission.

The Patriarchate.

The affair of the Patriarchate has taken a decided turn, and the present incumbent is definitely retiring to Mount Athos. The affairs of the Patriarchate will be managed by the permanent Councils of the Patriarchate under the presidency of a *locum tenens*, and it is reported that a delegation of the Greek Orthodox community will proceed to Angora for consultation with the Government concerning the choice of a new Patriarch.

Meanwhile the Stamboul law courts are solemnly debating the action for libel brought by the troublesome M. Damianidis, who is annoyed with the decree of excommunication launched against him by the Patriarch. While this farce is being carried on, the Turkish authorities with the other hand have given the Patriarch an official Turkish permit to leave the country and place himself outside the jurisdiction of the Court, thus displaying a good deal more common sense than they have been in the habit of doing for some months past.

Events at Lausanne.

The news of the agreement reached at Lausanne has just arrived, and comments on the manner in which it has been received here will have to be deferred, for nobody has yet had time to look around and take stock of the situation. But although criticism of the terms on which peace is about to be concluded may be considered premature until we have had time to see how the Turks are going to make use of their newly-won independence, it is certainly permissible to point out that the most prominent characteristic of the Treaty will be its omissions. To be quite frank, it transfers the conflict between Turkey and the Powers from the military to the economic plane, and from that point of view it must be considered as a quasi-settlement of limited scope, and leaves affairs in a state of suspended animation until the debt and concessions questions are definitely settled.

Whatever the defects of the proposed Peace Treaty—and they are many and various—it has one undeniable merit. The Turks, and the Turks alone, are responsible for the future of their country. The Great Powers have definitely acquiesced in a situation in which the Turkish Government will be face to face not with a set of hostile Powers bent on recovering reparations and debts, but with a corpus of business men who will treat with them on a purely business footing over the financial questions now in suspense.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 19 (New Style).
June 6 (Old Style).
Dulheggia (4) 4, 1341, A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 5, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Raja and Rani of Pudukota have arrived in London from Paris.

Mr. J. Millington-Drake, First Secretary to the British Legation at Bucharest, has left London for the Continent.

Mme. Grouitch, the wife of the former Serbian Minister to the Court of St. James, left London on July 10 for Belgrade.

M. Oromolu, Governor of the Roumanian National Bank, has arrived in London, and is staying at Claridge's Hotel.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has arranged to leave London on August 1 for Belgrade.

M. Tancred Constantinescu, Director of the Roumanian State Railways, has arrived in London, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

M. Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance, concluded his mission to London on July 11, and left for Paris on his way to Roumania.

Major E. W. Polson Newman has been appointed Private Secretary to the Right Rev. Dr. MacInnes, Bishop in Jerusalem, and has taken up his duties at St. George's Close.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulescu held a reception at 50, Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, on July 11 to meet M. Vintila Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance.

The Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar, acting under medical advice, has left England for a complete change of air in the Black Forest (South Germany). His Highness's health is improving slowly but steadily.

The engagement is announced of Lady Evelyn Herbert, only daughter of the late Lord Carnarvon and the Dowager Lady Carnarvon, to Mr. Brograve C. Beauchamp, only surviving son and heir of Sir Edward Beauchamp.

The guests entertained by the Maharaj Deo of Alwar at dinner on July 12 at the Hotel Cecil, in celebration of his birthday, included the Marquess and Marchioness Curzon of Kedleston, the Raja of Rajpipla, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Maharaja of Nawanagar, Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, Viscount and Viscountess Lee of Fareham, Syed Ameer Ali, Lady Emily Lutyens, and Mr. and Mrs. Austen Chamberlain.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, the wife of the Yugoslav Minister, gave an "At Home" on July 12, at which Mme. Eileen Andjelkovitch, wife of Mr. V. Andjelkovitch, Attaché at the Legation, played violin solos, and Mme. Tatiana Makushina sang several songs, M. Manlio di Veroli being at the piano. The guests included Prince Paul of Serbia, representatives of the Diplomatic Corps, members of the Yugoslav colony, and many others.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

M. Nicolas Pierrakos, Secretary at the Greek Legation, has resigned from the Diplomatic Service.

H.M. King Fuad has presented to the Municipal Library of Alexandria two copies of the "History of Egypt Under the Reign of the Khedive Ismail Pasha."

The following have been selected as probationers in the Sudan Political Service:—Messrs. E. D. M. Batty, E. A. V. de Candole, B. V. Marwood, H. A. Nicholson, A. S. Oakley, E. W. Thomas, and E. J. N. Wallis.

Mr. Andrews, of the Haifa Governorate, will act as Sub-Governor of Safad during the absence on leave in Haifa of Khalil Effendi Abdul-Nour.

During the absence in England, as a member of the Indian Services Commission, of Mr. Bhupendranath Basu, vice-chancellor of Calcutta University, it is understood that the Maharaja of Burdwan will act as vice-chancellor.

A Puisne Judgeship has been added to the permanent strength of the Bombay High Court, and Mr. Norman Wright Kemp, barrister-at-law, has been appointed to the post.

Lord Meston has consented to become honorary treasurer of the Zenana Bible and Medical Mission, in succession to the late Lord Kinnaird.

According to messages from Bombay, it is understood that Lord Chelmsford and the Jam of Nawanagar (K. S. Ranjitsinhji) will represent India at the League of Nations Assembly. It has not yet been settled who the third member of the delegation is to be.

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THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1923.

ENGLAND AND INDIA.

We referred briefly last week to the first public gathering of the British-Indian Union, an organisation which aims at promoting a better mutual understanding between the two countries. The object is one which can be commended without reserve, and the scope for action is ample, or even embarrassingly wide. To cover the entire ground would indeed require a treatise rather than an article, and to-day we propose to invite the attention of our readers mainly to that section of it where the immediate danger arising from misunderstanding appears to us to be greatest, the failure of Indian politicians in the mass to appreciate the attitude of the British nation towards India, and the objects which it is seeking to attain. Regarding these objects, there is no room for doubt. It has been made perfectly plain that all important sections of the nation are agreed in the determination to give Indians a fair chance of developing a wholesome national life on democratic lines; but when we judge Indian public men, as we are bound to do, by the record of their votes and speeches in the Legislature, we are driven to the conclusion that they are looking to England to support them in establishing the oligarchy of a microscopic minority. Long before they have made use of the opportunities already granted, they are clamouring for extended powers for themselves, they are acting on the assumption that such clamour must necessarily be successful, and they are ignoring the basic fact that a much wider franchise must precede the grant of appreciably wider powers. Were they working in intellectual harmony with us, they would be devoting their time on the one hand to pressing for the early enfranchisement of more voters, and on the other to educating the people to whom votes might be given: as a matter of fact, the franchise is the one political question which leaves them absolutely cold, political education has scarcely been attempted, and, judging them on their record, they aspire not to lead the masses, but to rule them as they were ruled by Aladdin or Aurangzeb.

We think it right to say this quite plainly, but we have no intention of apportioning blame for what is in fact a natural development. The present attitude of Indian politicians springs directly from the evil past. We ask them to realise that England has undertaken to break with that past, not to revive it under another name, and to introduce the working rule of democracy to which they have long been accustomed to render lip-service. Probably they would be more ready to transform their homage into action if they possessed a more vivid knowledge of the real past of India. Let us state that past in the form of a parable. Rather more than a century ago England found India sinking deeper and deeper in a pit of indescribable filth. England pulled her out, and has since been endeavouring to make her presentable. The effort has so far succeeded that it has been possible to introduce her to the society of the nations; but in the meantime she has forgotten all about the pit, and at present she is concerned mainly to blame her rescuer for the dirt which has not yet been removed. We do not claim that England has always acted with entire wisdom in her relations with India. There have been times when it might have been better to use a hose instead of a sponge; some garments were scarcely worth washing, and might advantageously have been burned; but the broad fact remains that India now occupies a position which, even fifty years ago, would have been unthinkable, and for that very reason the men who aspire to lead her onwards are called upon to make efforts and sacrifices of which their predecessors did not dream. We appeal to them, therefore, to endeavour to realise the true purpose of England in the light of Indian history. To our eyes, the road which the majority of Indian legislators have recently been following leads directly back to the pit from which India has escaped. We do not deny its attractions at the moment, the smooth surface, or the easy downward gradient. Its fault is simply that it leads in the wrong direction, and that every step taken along it will sooner or later have to be retraced.

Perhaps it may assist Indian politicians in obtaining a juster grasp of the situation if we point out that many of them are under an illusion regarding the attitude of the Labour Party in this country. We concede that there has been some excuse for this illusion in the past. The wild men on the left flank have talked wildly, as their habit is, and, in their eagerness to discredit their opponents, have made promises which Indians have been too ready to accept at their face-value. But the Labour Party, taken as a whole, does not consist of wild men; it is gaining rapidly in steadiness and solidity, and the policy of the Labour Ministry, if and when it comes into existence, will be determined not by the freelances on the left, but by sober-minded men, rather stupid, perhaps, when judged by Indian standards, but perfectly able to appreciate plain facts, and convinced believers in the democratic principles of whose triumph they are the most conspicuous evidence. It is possible they may administer democracy to India in doses so large as to try the patient's constitution; it is unthinkable that they should sacrifice their principles by doing anything to maintain or strengthen the privileges of the few. We ask Indian politicians, then, to realise that the English objective of democracy is not likely to change. The process may vary in pace with temporary fluctuations in opinion, but the direction will not be reversed, until at least the failure of democracy shall have been demonstrated as a fact. It is open to Indians to reject democracy altogether, but so long as they accept the theory, affirmed for so many years in their voluminous programmes, their duty is to work for its realisation in practice by helping to bring into existence an electorate sufficiently large and sufficiently informed to bear the weight of a more extensive system of self-government. The clamour for new powers does more than anything else to discourage those Englishmen who have worked for India's advance. What they look for eagerly is the acceptance of new duties, and the rising to increased responsibilities. Satisfy them that Indians are working on these lines, and they will not be backward in pressing for the grant of still greater opportunities of service.

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CHANGING THE NAME.

By X. N. O.

The recent decision of the new Turkish Government to change the name of the St. Sophia Mosque and call it the Mehemedje Mosque must assuredly cause much bitter heartburning amongst those who know and love the massive pile at the gateway of the Bosphorus.

There is no religious building in the world that has passed through so many vicissitudes in the passage of time, and yet survived triumphantly and with so little loss to its former state.

Built in the fourth century by the Emperor Constantine as a Christian church, originally a plain Basilica, it was destroyed forty years later, only to be rebuilt in 415 A.D., when it stood for over 100 years until burnt down. Out of the ashes of the original Basilica rose up the huge edifice as it now stands. Under the personal supervision of the great Emperor Justinian, one hundred architects, each having under him one hundred labourers, worked for nearly five years to complete this cathedral, the most glorious jewel in Justinian's crown. The dome, curiously enough, is almost exactly the same size as the dome of St. Paul's, but the lightness of its support gives it an appearance of greater vastness. Completed in 537 A.D., the church was dedicated to The Divine Wisdom on Christmas Day of that year.

For over 900 years St. Sophia remained the seat of the Patriarchate and the cathedral of the Eastern Church, during which time Constantinople had changed hands more than once. Suddenly, like a bolt from the blue, Mohammed the Conqueror arrived at the head of his victorious army, and, putting the city to the sack, rode into St. Sophia at the head of his troops while Mass was in progress. There, legend has it, astride his war horse on the top of a heap of the slain, he proclaimed the creed of his faith.

From that day to this, St. Sophia, or Aya Sofia, as it is more properly called by the Turk, has been devoted to the worship of Islam. To the best of their power they removed all traces of its former Christian decorations. Elaborate mosaics depicting Christ, the six-winged Cherubim, and portions of Old and New Testament history were whitewashed over, and the massive door hinges, originally fashioned in the shape of a crucifix, were mutilated and made to represent tridents where the Cross had been before. Try how they might, however, to efface all traces of its Christian origin there were many features, the most salient ones, they were powerless to change. The position of the pillars supporting the great dome formed the outline of a Greek cross, and, like all Christian churches, the apse lay east and west. This rather upset the Moslem ruling that houses of prayer must face towards Mecca. The difficulty was partly overcome in St. Sophia by putting up the Mihrab, or altar, some way further to the southward of where the altar of the Greek church had been and adjusting the praying mats accordingly. This transformation was rendered more easily possible by the fact that the altar is a movable fixture in all Eastern churches.

The position of the original altar, however, is clearly indicated by a mosaic of Christ, which was above it, with arms outstretched towards the centre of the building. This mosaic, also white-washed over on the church's conversion to a mosque, is the subject of a curious superstition.

Fable has it that the reappearance of the figure of Christ through its covering of white-wash would coincide with the overthrow of the Ottoman Empire. I remember in this connection that, on visiting the mosque of St. Sophia a few days after the armistice with Turkey was signed in 1918, an Armenian pointed out the mosaic, which was just discernible in certain lights. He told me of the superstition concerning it with much awe and not a little foreboding, for Turkey's ultimate fate had not then been decided.

The ardent revolutionaries who are the backbone of the present movement are to a man in favour of altering everything which may remind them of the European influence over Constantinople. The city has from time to time passed through the hands of far greater men than these—the Greeks, Latins, Crusaders, and lastly the old Ottoman régime—and all these were content to leave St. Sophia's name unchanged.

Though welcome to the extremists of the present party, one can rest assured that its new name of Mehemedje Mosque will mean nothing to the fine-featured, white-bearded, grave old Turks, resembling almost exactly the figures in Sunday School wall pictures, who sit, day in and day out, "drinking" their narghilehs outside the Stamboul coffee-houses. For them nothing changes, and innovation is heresy.

To heighten the Moslem appearance of the interior, the early conquerors hung up round the dome those great green and gold plaques so familiar to visitors to the mosque. The conquerors of the present generation, not content with altering the appearance of the building, wish to change its name.

How the marble pillars much chuckle to themselves—if pillars can have a sense of humour! Those pillars that are so permanent a part of the structure when compared to plaques and names, and yet are so cosmopolitan, brought as they were by the founders from far-flung temples of all creeds and faiths—temples of Christ, Mahommed, Pallas, Apollo, the Asiatic Cybele, and Egyptian Isis and Osiris. What does a name matter to them?

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NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE WORLD'S DAME SCHOOL.

"OPPRESSED PEOPLES AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS." By Noel Buxton and T. P. Conwil-Evans (London, J. M. Dent & Sons. 6s. net.)

The Treaty of Sèvres was an admirable document in all but one particular, it dealt with Turkey without taking into consideration the Turks. As far as the purpose of this book is disclosed, the reader is left with a suspicion that the authors would apply the same policy to the world at large. The nations are to be sent to a Dame-school kept by Granny League, a successor to Madame Europa. Now compulsory education is an admirable system, but it is based in the last resort on physical force, applied to the errant or recalcitrant by a stronger arm. Consequently, if the nations of the world are sent to school just at the moment when the youngest of them are convinced that they have arrived at man's estate and have done with school and even family discipline, there is likely to be some jibbing, and provision must be made for the necessary compulsion. No doubt such a prospect raises no misgivings with the Labour Party, accustomed to the discipline of Trades Unions, but it necessarily handicaps any scheme for the millennium in the minds of practical people. If the events of the last four years have proved anything, it is that self-will has followed hard on the heels of self-determination, and that where any single nation is inclined to kick over the traces nothing but war or the imminence of war is likely to win it to reasonableness. In these circumstances the elaboration of counsels of perfection for compelling the world to be good are apt to be waste of time, as no force is available for the compulsion.

With a view to setting Internationalism on a pedestal, our authors have to demolish Nationalism and Imperialism. The former is accorded a grudging tribute in so far as it has been the means of liberating the peoples from dominions they disliked; now it has to be "damped down." Imperialism is judged and condemned, because the individual records of a settler here and there in Australia or South Africa leave something to be desired—surely very flimsy grounds for maintaining that British Imperialism has been a greater force for evil than for good. On this point, as on others, our authors seem to suffer from inability to see the wood owing to the size of the trees, resembling an art-critic passing judgment on a poster which he has examined only under a microscope.

If we follow the authors of this book correctly, the world is to be set right by Internationalism, acting through the League of Nations, which will employ, as far as possible, the British Empire, purged of all its evil characteristics by the Labour Party. The mandatory system is to stand, and to be extended, but "The League should inaugurate a system of supervision by its own inspectors, who should, of course, not be nationals of the mandatory." There is also to be a civil service recruited from the various States which are members of the League, and a Minorities Commission will be in charge of the interests of the oppressed or weak racial minorities, and in countries like Egypt will also be responsible for protecting strong and healthy minorites, i.e., Europeans. It is not clear whether the authors have reflected that, as the League of Nations can represent only the will of the signatories of the Covenant, possibly some or all of them may object to intensifying the League's discipline, and to the introduction of the form of espionage recommended. In the absence of a Labour Government, or, perhaps, in the event of its falling short of all that is predicated of it, the Anti-Slavery Society is to obviate "such grievances as those to which the base elements in British Imperialism might in the future give rise."

By the time the reader comes to the chapter on "The Middle Eastern Peoples" he is prepared for the enforcement of international discipline. Under the heading of "Neo-Manchesterism" the "extreme Labour Press" has been trounced severely for urging "the immediate bestowal of full independence and immediate withdrawal by the dominating Power." If restrictions are necessary to national expression in Europe, we are told, they are imperative in the case of most Eastern peoples, as, for example, the Egyptians and Arabs, "who, whatever may be their capabilities in other respects, are not equipped for an immediate experiment in democracy." The Labour Party is to reconcile itself to this doctrine by reflecting that "those who cry loudest for total independence are often landlords and property owners, representing forces to which, as a rule, labour is distinctly hostile." Accordingly, the Eastern peoples, whether they like it or not, are to be kept under tutelage, and the reader is left to infer that our authors would be prepared to recommend a Labour Government to undertake a war to keep these people under tutelage for their good. (On page 149 war with Turkey in 1922 is contemplated with complacency. "It was still in the power of the Allies, or indeed in that of the chief naval Power alone, to impose a settlement which justice dictates.") Much that is written about the Arab world is to the point, but little allowance is made for the difficulty of forcing Eastern peoples into a mandatory mould without the prospect of a long period of unrest. As for the Turks, "is is a hard fact that a certain measure of interference in Turkey is demanded by reason and justice. It would be unworthy of true internationalism to ignore history, to apply idealistic solutions in defiance of facts, above all, to hand over large and suffering minorities, as part and parcel of our reaction against the Imperialism of the Allies, to an Imperialism infinitely more abominable. The Labour Party, to its credit, has not lost its head. . . ."

From the quotations given it will be seen that the book ranges over a wide field. A further chapter deals with Japan and Korea. In so far as the authors provide food for thought in regard to an important subject, they have done well; but we imagine that most of their readers will be of opinion that there is no short cut to the millennium, and that this generation will have to be content to know that slowly, painfully, but steadily, it is toiling upwards, leaving the world distinctly better off than it found it.

BOOK RECEIVED

"The Crusades." By Ernest Barker. (London: Oxford University Press. 2s. 6d. net.)

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THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In the early post-War period, when reconstruction was the order of the day in all or most institutions of this and other countries, you were so good as to place at the disposal of the Central Asian Society the columns of THE NEAR EAST, in order that that Society might reconstruct itself on the wider basis which the changed conditions in the Near and Middle East, brought about by time and the War, placed at its disposal.

As a matter of fact, as I judge, the famous old "Central Asian Question," which seemed to resolve itself into the one issue: "Was Britain or Russia to be dominant in Asia?" found its grave in the Anglo-Russian agreement of 1907; and when that Agreement became a ruin, even the grave ceased to be recognisable. Compare the Central Asia of the opening years of this or the closing years of the last century with the Central Asia of to-day! When I was last there I found Czarist Russia developing the country steadily and effectively. I was at the Tashkent Exhibition of 1890, and there I saw, not "milk and honey," as in the Mosaic days, but coal, and wine, and cotton—and oil. I doubt not, lay low somewhere. If quiet progress had been the order of the day in the years that followed, we can realise how the communications of that territory by rail, steamboat, car, and air would have been developed, and, being developed, have contributed to the expansion of industry in it, and to its wealth and welfare. All that has been nipped in the bud by the release from control of revolutionary forces, the ruthlessness of which experience alone has enabled us to realise.

The Central Asian Society has endeavoured, since the termination of the War, so to organise itself that it may with justice be regarded as an authority on Asia and Asiatic affairs, and especially on all that concerns those countries upon the sound administration of which depends easy communication between Great Britain and its Overseas Dominions. As far as I can judge, the Suez Canal is the key of that vital line of communication. A good deal of chaff, sometimes good-humoured, sometimes almost acrid, has been levelled at the "Central Asian" Society, when its tentacles have been seen to embrace the Far East on the one side and a goodly share of Africa on the other. The fact is that the great political and social and commercial questions of the day are not limited by the arbitrary conventions of geographers. Anyone can see that Africa, from the Cape to Cairo, will become a powerful factor in the maintenance of British power on the Suez Canal and on the countries which immediately border upon that Canal. The Cape to Cairo Railway will inevitably be completed, and as long as South and East Africa remain loyal to the Mother Country, that railway will, in any hour of need, take possibly disloyal forces in rear, and paralyse their action. And let me add that, whatever view may be taken of the Jew and Arab controversy in Palestine, it is surely obvious that British control of Palestine is essential to the maintenance of communication with Great Britain's possessions in Asia and Australasia. It is certainly matter for profound regret that the descendants of Sarah and Hagar cannot live in amity together; but, after all, as Lord Milner said at the last annual dinner of the Central Asian Society, it has been found possible to induce hostile races to live in peace under a just administration.

It is matter for sincere regret that the onerous Parliamentary and secretarial duties of the Honorary President of the Central Asian Society, the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, prevent him from presiding at those annual dinners. When he did preside, on October 12, 1920, he made a speech which I certainly have not forgotten and shall not forget. Furthermore, I have endeavoured to keep the memory of it green. He reminds members of the Central Asian Society that the lectures and the journal are but preparatives, and that their great work is to be done by themselves in the vast field of action which British stakes and interests in the Near and Middle and Far East lay open to them. It is my earnest hope that in the future the memory of this good counsel will hold firm, and that the Society whose welfare we have at heart will continue to be for many years to come a "Pillar of the Empire."—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE (Lieut.-Col.),
ex-Hon. Sec., C.A.S.

The Athenæum, Pall Mall, S.W.1.,
July 7.

THE FRENCH AND THE TURKISH DEBT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—A London daily certainly not noted for being pro-Turk the other day compared the French attitude over the Turkish Debt with the position they have taken up over reparations and the Ruhr. The two things are not quite on a par, but, so far the Turkish point of view has had no publicity in the Press. Here it is, concentrated and divested of diplomatic rhetoric.

All over the world the Great War has brought about an entirely new set of values. All sorts of solemn engagements have been forgotten by all sides, and impossible promises have been made all round which it is now seen to be impossible to keep. America and, to a limited extent, Great Britain can be considered to be on a gold basis, but the rest of Europe is now conducting its State life on paper of various degrees of depreciation. Loans to Turkey before the War (in France conducted under a kind of State patronage) may have mentioned gold, as they did also fixed rates between sterling, francs, and English pounds. But they did so merely as a matter of convenience from a coupon-paying point of view, since these were payable in Constantinople, as well as in Paris and in London, at the correct gold based rates of £10 = £tqs 11 = Frs. 250.

French investors lent Turkey francs; they also lent their own Government francs, and the French Government now pays interest and capital to its own people in francs, and not a larger number of francs, because the franc is now worth only about a third of what it used to be worth as reckoned in sterling. Why, therefore, the Turks ask, does the

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French Government insist on Turkey's paying French investors back on a sterling basis—*i.e.*, about three times as many francs—when France herself only pays its own people in francs? The Turks are prepared to pay the French in francs, in French francs, and they cannot see the logic of having to pay the French about three times as many francs just because francs are down when reckoned in sterling. "If it comes to that," they say, "pounds Turkish are down, too, to about a sixth of what they were worth in sterling." The Turks do not suggest paying the French in depreciated Turkish currency. They are willing to pay France in francs, the francs she invested being considered by the French Government itself as the same as the francs now circulating. Unless France starts to consider the present franc as being only a third of a franc and acts up to this in France, then Turkey will refuse to pay anything but francs *pur et simple*.

Quite apart from the above reasoning, Turkey simply could not afford to pay her debt at an artificially increased figure of three times its franc value. The Turkish Budget before the War was about £tqs30,000,000 per annum. This represented about £27,000,000. At the present time the Turkish Budget is considerably less than £tqs30,000,000 *paper*, which only means about £5,000,000. Possibly with peace—even with Turkey's greatly reduced territory—some increase may be brought about, but it will be obvious that, by agreeing to pay in French francs, Turkey is almost doing the impossible. It is, therefore, useless to even think about a sterling basis.

That is the Turkish case, and the Turks think it unanswerable both as to what they *ought to pay* and as to what they *can pay*.—I am, etc.,

A. P. Tully, A.I.A.

59, Kensington Hall Gardens, W.14.

PALESTINE POLITICS.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In spite of our divergent views on this topic, may I be permitted once more to refer to it in your columns?

Lord Milner has recently expressed his opinion that Arab agitation in Palestine does not rest on legitimate grievances. Now let us lay aside all Arab allegations about broken promises, and, for the sake of brevity, consider only one example of Arab grievances. Under the proposed Constitution Arab Moslems would be under-represented by over forty per cent. The considered opinion of a British statesman is that this is not a legitimate grievance. What, therefore, *does* constitute a legitimate grievance?

Arabs will entirely agree with Lord Milner that an impartial and disinterested government is essential for the peace of Palestine, and it is in order to obtain such a government that they are now agitating.—I am, etc.,

Chisholm Dunbar Brunton.

6, Learmonth Place,
Edinburgh.
July 13.

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland was founded by the distinguished Sanskrit scholar Henry Thomas Colebrooke in March, 1823, with the enthusiastic co-operation of all Oriental scholars and others in England interested in the East, and received the Royal Charter in 1824, under which it is governed by a council of twenty-five. Its object was to investigate the history, polity, customs, languages, literature, science, and arts of Asia, with the hope of facilitating ameliorations there and advancing knowledge and benefiting commerce and the arts at home. For these purposes it opened correspondence with the East to collect and disseminate information, not only on the antiquarian and literary sides, but also in favour of trade and practical affairs.

It met mostly monthly, and papers were read before it. These were published at first in three volumes of "Transactions" till 1833, and since then in an annual journal. It also started an Oriental Translation Fund, and issued many volumes of important Oriental works. Public interest afterwards flagged, yet was partially aroused by the famous discoveries of cuneiform inscriptions in Persia by Sir Henry Rawlinson in 1838, which the society championed during the first wave of incredulity and published in its journals. During the following decades of the century, however, and especially after the abolition of the East India Company, want of interest in Oriental matters among the public seriously straitened its means and restricted its activities. But after 1877 interest increased among the educated, and the society has steadily grown in numbers stability, and influence, so that it has been able to propose or itself to undertake various beneficial projects. Thus it has established funds to award a gold medal triennially to a distinguished British Oriental scholar and another annually for competition by essays among public school boys, and to publish important works on Oriental subjects free of cost to the authors. It now comprises 971 members, 165 subscribing libraries, and 34 eminent foreign scholars as honorary members, and has a most valuable Oriental library of some 30,000 volumes and manuscripts.

A four days' celebration of the centenary of the society commenced in London on July 17, when the Prince of Wales attended an inaugural reception of the delegates at Burlington House. A Government luncheon was given to the delegates at Claridge's Hotel the same day, after which the four main sections—the Far Eastern, Semitic, Sumerian, Hittite, and Egyptian, Indian, and Islamic—held their first meetings at the rooms of the society, 74, Grosvenor Street. Yesterday afternoon a visit was paid to the School of Oriental Studies, followed by a reception by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House. The programme for Thursday afternoon (the mornings are devoted to sectional meetings) includes a visit to Oxford or attendance at a reception of the British and Foreign Bible Society. To-morrow night Lord Chalmers, president of the society, will preside at a banquet at the Hotel Cecil.

A recently-published centenary volume, edited by Mr. F. E. Pargiter, gives a history of the Royal Asiatic Society.

It is announced that the Treaty of the Defensive Alliance concluded on July 7, 1921, between Roumania and Yugoslavia has been renewed for another period of three years. The original treaty, it will be remembered, was designed to prevent any attempt on the part of Hungary or of Bulgaria to upset the treaties of Trianon or Neuilly.

M. Wirsen, the recently appointed Swedish Minister to Greece, has handed his letters of credence to King George.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Monsoon.

Anxiety continues with regard to the monsoon, the latest news being far from encouraging. The rains have been heavy on the west coast of India, but inadequate elsewhere, and failing a rapid improvement it is inevitable that the crops will be moderate. That outcome will, of course, mean that for another year the purchasing power of India will be restricted, which is anything but a pleasant outlook for Lancashire, though it is always possible that conditions will favour the development of a demand for cotton goods in other quarters.

This Year's Harvests.

While the prospects of the Indian harvest remain uncertain, the outlook in Europe has greatly improved during the past week or so. A hot spell was the one hope of the languishing crops, and a heat-wave obligingly came along, to the discomfort of most Europeans, to say nothing of the inhabitants of this country, who have not realised that it has probably saved them from much worse troubles. The result has been that poor forecasts have been hastily altered to something quite different, and, provided conditions are favourable, there seems every likelihood of bumper crops over a great part of Europe. The reports are particularly favourable with regard to the Near East, where, if expectations are realised, there should be a large surplus of grain to support the weak exchanges.

Higher Bank Rate Success.

That an alteration in the Bank rate is still a highly efficacious corrective of adverse financial conditions is evident from the continued improvement in the sterling exchange quotation in New York since the rate was raised to 4 per cent. At the same time, the flow of money to the other side has declined, so that both the principal objects of the change are well on the way to being realised. There has been a good deal of criticism of the increase, it may be pointed out, on the ground that it will act as a check on any trade revival. I do not think, however, that there is any solid substance for this view, for, judging by past experience, a 4 per cent. rate should not make much difference one way or the other, and, in any case, trade is at such a low ebb just now that one can scarcely speak with any propriety of checking it.

The Montenegrin Loan Service.

Apropos of the question of the service of the Montenegrin Loan, to which I have already referred in these columns, it may be noted that provision has been made in the Yugoslav supplementary Budget estimates for the service of the current coupons. This fact should remove the last vestige of anxiety on the part of the bondholders. No decision has yet been arrived at as regards the arrears of interest, but no doubt in this case, too, an equitable settlement will be reached.

The Export Credits Scheme.

It cannot be said that the statement recently issued giving particulars of the export credits scheme is in any way an encouraging document; in fact, the impression can legitimately be drawn from it that the scheme is inadequate for the purpose of assisting trade in the present unprecedented conditions. A total amount of £26,000,000, it will be remembered, was authorised for the purposes of the scheme, and the total of the credits granted, £13,346,319, is, *prima facie*, extremely satisfactory. But the amount that has actually been utilised is only a little over three million pounds, which speaks volumes as to the actual trade situation. The real fact is, of course, that it is impossible indefinitely to stimulate trade by artificial expedients. A scheme such as this would have been, and may yet be, of the greatest utility in the development of commerce when the external indications point very plainly to the early return to something approaching normal conditions; but in a long period of depression, and in the face of adverse exchanges, only the supreme optimist could anticipate really satisfactory results.

The P. and O. Banking Corporation.

The progress made by the P. and O. Banking Corporation in the comparatively short period that it has been in existence has been most remarkable, especially when due consideration is taken of the prevailing commercial conditions. During the year ended March 31 last the business of the bank continued to expand. The total figures of the balance-sheet rose from £13,000,000 to £22,500,000: the current, deposit, and other accounts rose from £6,316,000 to £10,000,000, while the bank's cash position is very strong, liquid balances being maintained of nearly £5,000,000, representing about 50 per cent. of the demand liabilities. In his speech at the annual general meeting of the bank Lord Inchcape laid stress on the prudent policy of the board, saying that they intended to go cautiously, avoiding risks as far as possible, gradually working up what they hoped would be a sound and lucrative business, and building up reserves. Turning to the trade situation, he pointed out that Europe was India's best customer, and emphasised the need for settled conditions there in the interests of the trade of India, of this country, and of the world generally. In his opinion, this country will gain far more by a settled Europe than by anything in the way of Reparations that we are likely to get from Germany.

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ROUMANIAN FINANCES.

Budget Equilibrium Reached.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulescu were "At home" on the afternoon of July 11 to a number of representatives of the Press to enable them to hear a speech by M. Vintila Bratianu, Roumanian Minister of Finance, on present conditions in Roumania. M. Bratianu described the conditions in Roumania immediately after the Armistice, when the country was quite unable to maintain itself and had to resort to a number of financial expedients in order to carry on.

Its difficulties were two-fold—political and financial. It was handicapped by being a collection of four different units—the old kingdom, Transylvania, Bukovina, and Bessarabia, with different administrative systems, different fiscal systems. In 1919 loans were essential to enable the country to live. Further, the issues of paper money during the enemy occupation, as well as the Austrian money, had to be absorbed. It was not until 1923 that it was possible for remedial legislation to have any actual effect. It would be seen that they were now getting back in Roumania to a state of normal production. The Budget had reached equilibrium while covering ordinary needs, at the same time allowing a certain expenditure on railway improvements. It might be said that the railways at the moment were equal to all demands, although by no means in the condition that they ought to be in and would eventually reach. Here, again, they were confronted with the difficulty of railways belonging to four different systems based on four different centres, and Roumania's railway programme in future would consist in unifying these four systems in one. The object of the new constitution had been to harmonise all the various systems represented in the new Greater Roumania, to enable the country to be run as a single whole, and to utilise its resources to the full. The Government held that the current rate of exchange did not correspond with the facts of Roumania's position, but at the same time they were most anxious to avoid violent fluctuations or too rapid a rise. One of the objects of his visit, M. Bratianu declared, was to arrange that Roumania should not be hindered by outside circumstances in her work of development. On the subject of reparations they felt that they were being called upon to postpone certain rights that they had under the treaties, but that they were not to enjoy any proportionate postponement of the obligations imposed upon the country by the same treaties. As far as Great Britain was concerned, he hoped that it would be recognised that Roumania was a country of considerable interest to manufacturers, and he hoped that in judging of her as a potential market business interests in this country would rely upon facts and not come to unfavourable conclusions on mere hearsay without seeing things for themselves.

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The 1923 Budget.

Detailed figures of Roumania's financial position are given in a memorandum issued by M. Bratianu, from which we give the following extracts:—

The Budgets of the Old Kingdom showed a considerable surplus each year from 1901, the balance amounting on occasions to nearly 20 per cent. of the total. Thus, on an expenditure of 512 millions, the Budget of 1913-14 showed a surplus of more than 95 millions. The first Budget of Greater Roumania was that of 1919-20, a date which signalises the return to normal finance. It shows an expenditure of 5.2 milliards, as against receipts of 2 milliards. The Budgets of the last three years show a continued increase in expenditure, due to the increasing charges imposed on the State by the reorganisation of its services and the monetary depreciation. The deficit—a phenomenon almost universal among European States since the War—more than 3 milliards of lei in 1919-20, was only 2.6 milliards in 1920-21, and about 1 milliard in 1921-22.

In view of that series of deficits, of which the immediate consequences were the increase of the fiduciary circulation, the growth of the floating debt, and the weakness of the credit of the State, the first duty of the Roumanian Government was to take account of the real position of its services and to bring about at all costs the balancing of expenditure and receipts, an essential condition of all healthy finance. That was the underlying idea that governed the drawing-up and the carrying-out of the Budget of 1922-23, which showed an expenditure of 10.5 milliards of lei, an amount almost entirely covered by the ordinary revenues. This Budget maintained, generally, the characteristics of the Budgets of the Old Kingdom, and the pre-War fiscal system has only undergone slight modifications: an increase in direct taxation and in succession duties, the introduction of a tax on salaries, on movables, and on turnover, the increase of certain duties on consumption, and the raising of the tariff on monopolies.

The Budget of 1923 marks great progress compared with that of 1922-23. As regards the revenue, it embodies the reorganisation of direct contributions for the unification of direct taxation within the new frontiers of the country, for procuring important resources for the State and for assuring a more equitable distribution of public charges. The taxes accruing from fortunes inherited and income now represent one-fifth of the total amount of taxes against one-sixth in the previous Budget. As regards expenditure, it assures the well-being of the public services, and will well satisfy the country's needs. Here are the details of the Budget estimates (for nine months), the figures representing millions of lei:—Receipts: Direct taxation, 1,577; indirect taxation, 5,885; stamp duties and registration, 901; State monopolies, 1,770; industrial services (railways, etc.), 3,543; State domains, 606; sundry revenues, 1,124; total, 15,406. The heads of expenditure remain, broadly speaking, the same as in the Budget of 1922-23. The increase in expenditure—15,406 millions of lei for nine months, as against 7,873 for the same period of 1922-23—is due to (1) the service of the debt, which requires 2,659 millions of lei to meet the payment of interest and all external and internal obligations of the State; (2) the increase of the Budget allocations for the army—now at a strength of 125,000, a very small total when the extent of the Roumanian frontiers is borne in mind; (3) the increase in the salaries of officials to bring their emoluments into keeping with the rise in prices; (4) the growth in the expenditure on the railways and P.T.T.; (5) better public services in general, etc.

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Oil Notes and News.

ROUMANIAN OIL POSITION IN 1922.

The recently issued British Consular Report on Roumania contains a comprehensive survey of conditions in the oil industry in 1922 by Mr. Louis Johnston, from which we quote the following :—

1,137,184 tons of crude oil were produced, as against 1,168,414 tons in 1921, being well under the 1,847,875 tons produced in 1913-14. The Prahova fields contributed approximately 78 per cent., viz. : Moreni, 45 per cent. ; Baicoiu, 10 per cent. ; Bustenari, 6 per cent. ; Campina, 5 per cent. ; Runcu-Scorteni, 4.70 per cent. ; Tintea, 3.40 per cent. ; and the balance of 3.90 per cent. from Chiciura, Bordeni, Recea and Filipesti de Padure. The Dambovitza fields contributed approximately 10 per cent. from Ochiuri Rasvad, and 2.85 per cent. from Gura Ocnitei. The Buzau fields contributed approximately 6.75 per cent., and Bacau 2.40 per cent

At the end of September, 1921, there were 777 producing wells, 410 others were being drilled, and 395 were suspended or abandoned. There were also 307 producing handshafts, 37 others were being deepened, and 280 were abandoned. The production was mostly obtained as usual by the Astra Romana, the Romano Americana, and the Steaua Romana.

As in previous years since the Armistice, throughout 1922 the supply of electric power was irregular, and the production from wells in bailing frequently suffered. Towards the end of the year the supply of electric power became regular. Production, as in previous years, was to a large extent maintained by fountain wells, mostly in Moreni. There was practically no "wild-catting," the companies concentrating on the known prolific areas. Except for the exploration of Copaceni by a Roumanian and a French company, practically no exploring for new oil strata has been done since 1918.

The Astra Romana (Shell group) had six flowing wells at Moreni, one of which had given nearly 300,000 tons. The same company obtained 80 tons daily from a well in Ochiuri, and the first good results since the war from the region of Campina Pitigaia. The Romano Americana (Standard Oil) had eight flowing wells in Moreni and two in Baicoiu. The Concordia company had a flowing well at Moreni and another at Runcu. The Phœnix company (British) had terrific eruptions from a Moreni well, obtaining as much as 1,500 tons in twenty-four hours, and the same company had a flowing well at Runcu. The Colombia company had eruptions almost all through the year from their Moreni well No. 6, the production from which increased as time went on. Other flowing wells were brought in by the Dacia Company (British) and the Credit Minier (Roumanian) at Moreni, by the Romania Petrolifera (Roumanian) at Gropi, and by the Steaua Romana and the Orion companies at Runcu.

The price of crude oil at the beginning of the year was very weak, and refining was not a paying business for reasons stated, with the result that most of the refiners without their own crude oil production closed down. Towards the early summer, owing to the expectation of higher maximal prices for products for internal consumption, crude oil became firm, and the closed refineries reopened. In August the price of crude oil was influenced by a drop in the American oil market, and Bustenari quality was negotiated at lei 1,800 per ton. From October to December the price of crude oil was rising.

Drilling Activity.

Drilling was handicapped all through the year by the irregular supply of electric power, by shortage of labour, by bad weather, which prevented transport of material, and—not least—by the fall in currency, which rendered material expensive in lei. Nevertheless, there was more drilling in 1922 than in 1921, but still much less than in 1914, and companies concentrated on the prolific fields of Stavropoleo-Moreni, Runcu, Baicoiu, and Chiciura.

Every branch of industry was affected by the world value of the leu. In spite of four years' experience of fluctuating currency, some companies suffered by the falling leu ; one, for instance, that needed material from abroad, and had to pay gold value for it, called up the balance of capital subscribed when the leu stood at less than half the value it had when subscribed. Programmes had to be cut down. The currency capital of companies which had already been increased during the last two years again proved inadequate ; more and more lei were needed, whilst in 1922 there did not appear to be any lei available for the oil industry or for anything else, and as much as 25 per cent. per annum was offered for first mortgages on real estate

Refining.

Quantities are not yet available up to the end of the year. Until September 30, 910,095 tons of crude oil had been treated at the refineries, and after the first distillation it produced : 214,558 tons of benzine, 159,234 tons of lamp oil, 82,493 tons of gas oils, etc., 433,831 tons of residues—809,116 tons ; 19,979 losses—910,095 tons. Seventeen per cent. more crude oil was treated than during the same period of 1921, although in that year 92½ per cent. of the total crude oil production was treated, against only 90 per cent. in 1922. The 10 per cent. of the production not treated at the refineries was used as fuel in the fields and elsewhere, and this constituted a serious loss.

The pipeline to Constantza transported 550 tons daily, which was not sufficient. It was stated quite frankly at a conference of the directors of the pipeline service that there was no control of the line and no authority, that the pipeline service was entirely disorganised, and that there were no funds for urgent work and current necessities.

The following quantities were delivered for internal consumption up to the end of September (the figures representing tons) :—Benzine, 54,686 : distilled petroleum, 2,448 ; refined petroleum, 52,970 ; gas oil, etc., 86,344 ; paraffin, 983 ; residues, 301,908—499,339 ; burnt as fuel in refineries, 105,452—604,791 ; as against 473,540 tons during the same period of 1921, being an increase of 131,251 tons, or 28 per cent. The refineries in the district of Prahova (mostly in Ploesti) delivered 536,163 tons of the total of 604,791 tons.

The distribution of these products in the interior of the country was not considered satisfactory at the beginning of the year because of the usual shortage of locomotives and cisterns ; but an improvement took place later. Nevertheless, as the new Roumania has a population of 17½ millions, as against the population of 7½ millions in 1914, it is quite obvious that with the smaller production it is still only a proportion of the population that can obtain oil for their lamps.

The Export Trade.

The export to Egypt is beginning to be important again, as it was before the war. Egypt,

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Turkey, and Italy are Roumania's best customers for lamp oil, whilst Germany and France increased their import of Roumanian benzine. The export to all countries, with the exception of England and of Czecho-Slovakia, increased. Of the total quantity of 315,512 tons exported (nine months), 242,303 tons were shipped from Constantza and 45,618 tons from Giurgiu.

(To be concluded.)

AGRICULTURE IN PALESTINE.

The Labour Problem.

Those who wish to obtain a clear idea of the difficulties and complexities with which the Government of Palestine is confronted in the work of developing the country should read the admirable "Review of the Agricultural Situation in Palestine," by Mr. E. R. Sawer, Director of Agriculture, which has been recently issued by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. This report only covers the period down to the spring of last year: but while much has been done in Palestine since then, the situation is, broadly speaking, much the same, and the fact that it is not absolutely up to date detracts very little from the value of a most informative work.

When the Department of Agriculture was established in 1920, the position was that, as a result of the War, the organisation established under the Turkish régime had disappeared, and it was necessary to create anew an institution that could deal with the various requirements of agriculture.

The nature of the problem and the difficulties imposed by the question of finance can be gathered from the following extract:—

Smaller than Belgium or Wales in habitable area, without visible coal, oil, timber, or minerals of commercial value, Palestine must depend economically and fiscally upon its rural industries. For this purpose not more than two million hectares of land are available within our political boundaries as immediately defined. Of this area only half a million hectares are at present under perennial cultivation, as a result of heavy mortality among working cattle during the war and a subsequent collapse of agricultural credit. Primitive methods of farming and a very low standard of yields, coupled with a lack of crops of high intrinsic value, further limit agricultural revenue, and, with it, the proceeds of taxation, based on an *ad valorem* principle.

To reconcile, in such circumstances, conflicting demands for development and economy, recourse has been had to a number of temporary expedients, for which the end alone justifies the means. Such a policy was originally imposed by a reference of all capital work to a projected public loan which was to issue as soon as the status of a civil administration had been established by definite mandate. Unfortunately and unexpectedly, this restriction still obtains. . . .

Some of the handicaps of agriculturists, such as the shortage of live-stock and labour and the lack of credit, have in some measure been remedied: but until cultivators as a whole are able and willing to conduct operations on modern lines agricultural progress must of necessity be restricted. The poor yields of the crops show the position very clearly. The 1919-20 season was favourable for the winter crops, but the average yield of wheat per hectare in Palestine was only 593 kilos of grain, while in Egypt it was 1,793 kilos, and the figures for other crops were much the same.

Reasons are found in primitive methods of cultivation, weed-growth as an aftermath of war, lack of manure and chemical fertilisers, poor seed and unproductive varieties. The "nail plough" is well adapted to the rocky soils of our hillsides, but in the plains an implement is badly needed which will turn over the soil to a reasonable depth and cover a firmly-established weed growth.

In the best circumstances, however, it is pointed out that the export of a small surplus of grain could have little effect on an unsatisfactory trade balance, and efforts are consequently being directed to the introduction of crops of greater value, such as tobacco, sugar, cotton, flax, and castor. Here, of course, the labour question is all-important.

Labour immediately available for actual field operations in the limited area hitherto developed cannot, probably, exceed one adult to three hectares of land. That such a ratio precludes any considerable extension, in present conditions, of our staple cereal crops, and, equally, prohibits the general adoption of new elements such as cotton, tobacco, sugar beet, flax, or potatoes, will be self-evident. An association of experienced cotton growers has assured the Government that the only possibility of profitable cotton cultivation lies in the annual importation of Egyptian fellahin. For our labour deficiency is both quantitative and qualitative. The Palestinian cultivator is both untrained and unequipped for the production of other than the few simple crops which at present engage his attention. . . . A shortage of both human and animal labour is further accentuated by the lack of sowing, weeding, harvesting, and threshing equipment.

The question whether a good living is possible on a farm of, say, 50 hectares is the subject of interesting comment in the section of the report on "Animal Husbandry and Mixed Farming."

The experience of other countries is available to show that this can only be realised by combining the rearing and feeding of livestock with the raising of crops which at all times command a ready market. This would apparently demand a revolution in local thought, but may be brought about by a coalition and development of the two distinct and equally primitive systems of farming which at present characterise Palestinian agriculture. On the one hand we have pastoral Bedawi tribes, driving their flocks from summer to winter grazing grounds. . . . On the other hand, we have the sedentary Arab, living in agricultural villages, exhausing patch after patch of ground by continuous wheat and barley cropping. . . .

The progress report of the Orion Societate Anonima de Petrol for June shows that the crude oil production for the month was 3,445 tons and the throughput of the refinery 2,676 tons, 749 tons being converted into lubricating oils. Two wells caught fire during the month, but have been restored and bailing recommenced.

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Shipping Intelligence.

TANKER CHARTERING REVIEW.

Lower Freight Rates in Prospect.

Messrs. John I. Jacobs and Co., of London, in their half-yearly report on oil-tanker chartering, state:—

Since our last issue conditions for tank steamer owners have undergone a complete change, owing principally to the partial failure of the oil fields of Mexico and the enormous and somewhat unexpected increased production in California. These two important events in the oil world synchronised with the effect that over twice the amount of tonnage was required by the refiners on the East Coast of United States to haul the necessary amount of crude oil from California instead of from Mexico. As the result of this situation, tank steamer rates commenced to improve early in the year, and there was considerable activity on the part of the large producers and distributors. Tonnage was taken on time charter for periods varying from 6 months to 2 years.

According to Lloyd's Register, there were early in the year 49 steamers and motor vessels, each of over 1,000 tons, with a total tonnage of 300,128, under construction for the carriage of oil in bulk, as compared with a total of 62 tank vessels building at the quarter ending September 30, 1922. It was computed that early this year the total of tankers afloat was about 700, the d.w. capacity of these tankers being between 6,000,000 and 7,000,000 tons. Since then, orders for quite a number of tank steamers have been placed, principally in the United Kingdom and Germany, and in the majority of cases for boats propelled by Diesel engines. The United States Shipping Board have taken every advantage of the situation, and have disposed of the bulk of their larger tank steamers to American owners and corporations, who require them principally for their trade from California to the East Coast of U.S., between which ports only the American flag is allowed to trade. The production of crude oil in America continues to increase and generally speaking is somewhat in excess of the requirements of the American refiners. In Mexico, as mentioned above, there has been a partial failure of the fields, but this affects the lighter type of crude oil. In the case of heavy Panuco crude oil, production and exports show an increase. Great efforts are being made practically all over the world to obtain oil production, and these efforts are meeting with a measure of success in many new areas The production in Eastern Europe still lacks comparison with that prior to 1914. The demand for all oil products continues to expand and, so far as gasoline is concerned, the domestic trading of U.S. America continues to be the controlling factor. It is said that over 12,000,000 automobiles are now registered in that country, and the manufacturers predict that during the course of this year the number will be very considerably increased.

During the period under review, representative rates of freight have been as under:—

Northern States of America.—The amount of tonnage fixed for Trans-Atlantic voyages from these ports has been comparatively small, the boats of the smaller type have been preferred principally for the carriage of lubricating oils. Rates at the commencement of the year were on the basis of 20s. to 21s. 6d. and had risen to 37s. 6d., at which business was done.

Gulf of Mexico.—After getting tonnage freely at 17s. 6d. for both light oil and dark oil boats, and at 15s. 9d. for consecutive voyages, the rate rose for light oil boats to U.K. Continent to over 40s., at which several fixtures were effected, but 35s. has since been accepted. In one case a steamer secured a freight as high as 60s. for light oil to Alexandria. In this trade the larger tonnage has secured the bulk of the employment, smaller boats not being able to compete on anything like equal terms. Rates are now easier, particularly for dirty boats.

Mexico to U.S. Refineries.—The amount of tonnage taken by this trade has been on a somewhat smaller scale, owing to the partial failure of the fields. Rates early in the year were on the basis of 14 cents to 15 cents for the voyage from Tampico to the U.S. Gulf Ports and 20 cents to 25 cents from Tampico to the Northern Range. The general change in the situation and the withdrawal of American tonnage for the Californian trade created a shortage which was rapidly reflected in the rise in freight rates to 30 cents for New Orleans and 50 cents to the Northern Range, but tonnage could now be obtained at lower rates.

California.—A very large business has been done, more particularly in the carriage of crude oil by American tank steamers, to Eastern Coast of United States. 1 dollar per barrel has been paid for consecutive voyages over 12 months from San Pedro to New York, Philadelphia or Baltimore. Business from the Californian Coast to Europe has also been active, and rates rose from 30s. paid early in the year to 70s. offered. Tonnage is now obtainable at considerably easier rates.

Russia.—The volume of business from the Russian Black Sea oil ports has been somewhat smaller. It is reported from reliable quarters, however, that production will steadily increase, existing plant being renewed and new machinery installed. Charterers, after obtaining tonnage of 16s. 6d. from Batoum to U.K. Continent, had shortly afterwards to concede 37s. 6d., and in one case 50s. for lubricating, but 30s. has since been taken.

Roumania.—Business has been on an exceedingly limited scale owing to the continued enforcement of the Roumanian export regulations, which have only lately been modified, allowing increases up to 15 per cent. A handy boat was fixed on the basis of 40s. Constanza to the Continent.

Time Charter.—For reasons already mentioned tankers on this basis were at one time very freely chartered by the large producing and distributing companies, and rates rapidly rose from 4s. to 4s. 3d. on the d.w., according to type of steamer, to 6s. 6d. for steam-driven boats and 7s. 6d. for Diesel boats. These rates are for periods varying from 9 months to 24 months, the period in the majority of cases being in charterer's option. The demand for boats on time charter is now quiet, but charterers can be found to fix for a period of ten years at about 7s. on the d.w. for a Diesel boat.

Owing to the position of the Ruhr and the low level to which rates were brought, little was done in Creosote shipments early in the year. Fixtures were recorded on the basis of 10s. 6d. for 5,000 tons for three ports of loading to one port Northern States, with the improvement in homeward market these rates moved up in sympathy, but have since become easier on the basis of 14s. for 8,500 tons two ports to two ports.

One is faced with the usual difficulties in attempting to prognosticate the future, but indications are that the second half of 1923 will see freight rates on a lower level, although it seems unlikely that they will again reach the low level mark of late 1922, the lowest point for some ten years.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, July 25); s.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 9).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombia, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 24).

British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 3); s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 18).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, August 4); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, August 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4), s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay (London, July 27); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, July 28).

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Near East Markets.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN CROPS.

Cotton Backward but Improving.

The Bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in June:—

Cotton.—The hot and favourable weather has improved the state of the plants since last month but the growth is still uneven and late in most districts. Prospects in Upper Egypt are more favourable than in Lower Egypt. The water supply was ample everywhere. Flowering was general and boll-formation is progressing in early-sown fields. The cotton worm attack was general in Lower and Middle Egypt, but, being very slight, practically no damage has been done to the crop so far. Slight attacks of wilt have been reported from some districts in Lower Egypt and Minia. Cut worm and aphis have also been reported from a few localities in Lower Egypt but have caused no serious damage. On the whole the condition of the crop has somewhat improved on that of the previous month, but, with the exception of certain districts, the crop is still backward.

Millet (sêfi).—The weather was favourable and water supply sufficient. Passing, thinning, and watering are in progress. Stalk borer has been reported in Minia and Girga.

Rice (sêfi).—Sowing and weeding are being done under favourable conditions.

Sugar-cane.—The crop is growing under favourable conditions. Local attacks of stalk borer have been reported in Beni Suef and Faiyûm.

Wheat.—Harvesting has almost been completed and the yield is above the average

Barley.—Harvesting has now been completed. The yield is slightly above the average.

Bersim.—Harvesting of bersim for seed is progressing everywhere and the yield is expected to be below the average.

Earthnuts.—The crop is growing satisfactorily. Flowering is in progress.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for May:—

Gum.

Fung Province, April.—219 tons of hashab and 306 tons of talh gum were exported by rail from Sennar River siding.

Upper Nile Province.—115 tons of hashab and 27 tons of talh gum were exported during the month.

Kordofan Province.—26,053 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during the month, as against 15,175 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E.1.360 mm. per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 10,029 kantars, as against 14,334 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 8,306 kantars, as against 9,311 kantars last year. The average price being £E1.140 mm. per kantar 3,425 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of £E1.350 the kantar, as against 1,710 kantars last year.

At Rahad 778 kantars were sold at prices ranging from £E1.300 to £E1.450, as against 623 kantars last year.

Rainfall and Cultivation.

Berber Province.—Further early rains fell throughout the province in the last week of the month. Conditions appear to favour the appearance of locusts, but nothing has so far been reported in this regard.

Upper Nile Province.—Rainfall at Malakal Station has been slight, but heavy in the neighbourhood and south, and cultivation has started. Totals for the month are: Malakal 85.6 mm. Renk 45.8 mm. A cloudburst occurred at Melut on May 2, the rainfall in less than three hours exceeding 140 millimetres.

White Nile Province.—Rain fell at El Dueim on five occasions during the month. The heaviest fall on any one day was on the 17th, when 14.5 millimetres fell. The total fall for the month was 39.2 millimetres. Sowing has been taking place on the Goz lands in Dar Gima and to the west of El Dueim. The Dukhn at Um Bueisa, 10 miles west of El Dueim, was 6 inches high at end of month.

Kordofan Province.—Cultivation has been commenced in most parts of the Province, except Bara, where there was no rainfall.

Wheat and Barley.

Dongola Province.—Ghaba Pumping Station Report, April.—The harvesting of wheat is practically finished. The crop was poor, rust having caused considerable damage. The assessment averaged 2.7 ardebs of 360 rotls (162 kilos) per feddan. Gurier Pumping Station report, April.—Wheat is coming in very well, 270 ardebs having been brought in to the store at the end of April.

Halfa Province, April.—In Sukkot and Mahas District a yield of 4 ardebs per feddan was obtained from wheat and barley crops.

Dura.

Kassala Province, April and May.—275 ardebs of dura were exported from Gedaref during April, and 276 ardebs during May.

Upper Nile Province.—11 tons of dura were exported during May.

Kordofan Province.—60 ardebs of dura were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E1.225 per ardeb of 420 rotls (189 kilos).

Dukhn.

Fung Province, April.—59 tons of dukhn were exported by rail from Sennar River siding during the month.

Kordofan Province.—93 ardebs of dukhn were sold in El Obeid market at an average price of £E1.300 per ardeb of 420 rotls (189 kilos).

White Nile Province.—117 ardebs of 300 rotls (135 kilos) were exported from Dueim during the month. Average price 750 mm. per ardeb.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	165-170
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	410-440
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1.087,500
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	26.37-26.40
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.85-94.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	885
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	38-42,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/8-1.4 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	700-720*
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.59 3/8-4.59½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	78.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106¾
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	500
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-330,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	540-580,000

*Nominal

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reaches a great potential market stretching from Morocco to India

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Erratic and Weak.

The Commercial Company of Egypt in their report for the week ended July 6, state :—

Since our last report the future market has been rather erratic, and closed weak. The decline in New York on the publication of the second bureau condition of the season of the American crop has very much surprised operators here, the figure of 69.9, against 71.0 a month ago and 71.2 a year ago, being considered a bullish one, and in any case within current expectations. At the first tender of July Sakellarides 71,000 kantars have been delivered, but the market took them well, in view, we presume, of the existing premium of November. Ashmounis have been slightly easier, but the existing supply is very limited, and no decline in prices to any extent is likely to occur before the new crop cotton of this growth appears on the market. The demand from abroad has not improved, and the market has thus been deprived of any trade support. Egyptian in Liverpool has been again rather weak, despite the continued heavy daily spot sales. However, the stocks are decreasing steadily, and some appreciation in the present parity with Alexandria may be expected as soon as the liquidation of the July Liverpool position is over. This week's receipts amounted to 6,388 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,619,948 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 80,403 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,239,640 krs., against 1,313,655 krs. a week ago, and 1,820,361 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—We have had a quiet week at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 5,000 bales, of which we estimate 3,400 B/s Sakellarides, 1,500 B/s uppers, and 100 B/s various. Spot cotton has not followed the decline in contracts, and fully good fair spot is appreciably dearer than the fully good fair contract in all growths. With continued good exports and negligible arrivals, the stock shows a marked decrease, and the statistical position becomes stronger each week.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the bulk of the business has been in fully good fair and fully good fair to good. Below fully good fair cotton is so scarce and dear that the better grades at the small existing differences have naturally attracted buyers' attention. Prices of spot against contracts are considerably dearer than last week, holders having refused to follow the decline in contracts.

Uppers.—The greater portion of the business has been in the good grades; medium and lower styles have been in comparatively poor demand, due probably to their dearness and scarcity. Prices of spot against contracts are much dearer than last week, holders refusing to follow the drop.

Brown and Pilion.—A small business has been done at hardening rates in sympathy with uppers.

White.—A retail business has been done. Spot prices against contracts are markedly dearer than last week. Crop, 1923.—News continues satisfactory. Leaf worm has appeared in varying intensity in all districts, but no serious damage is reported.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Sales of Egyptian Still Good.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 11 :—

The past week has been quiet and uneventful. During the first part a slight downward tendency in prices was noticeable, but latterly a better tone has developed, thanks to rather brighter news from Manchester. On the whole, the general inquiry has shown signs of falling off, but considering the time of the year, the sales of Egyptian cotton still remain extraordinarily good. No new ground has been broken, and the basis, both for Sakel and Uppers, has given way slightly. More than ever, Sakellaridis cotton would appear to be cheap, and there are signs that speculation is again being attracted in this direction. Uppers, 15¾d. to 16¼d., and Sakellaridis, "50 to 100 points on," have formed the major portion of the inquiry. Prices have proved to be rather irregular, and here and there cases of forced selling have been discernible. This is all to the advantage of the spinner, who finds the Liverpool spot market far more attractive at the present time than the c.i.f. market in Alexandria. C.i.f. business, indeed, appears to have quite gone out of fashion in the Egyptian section.

The gradual working up towards the good qualities in Sakellaridis continues, but the movement is a slow one. The opinion is gaining ground here that the values placed upon good to fine Sakellaridis in this market have been excessive, and a further slight contraction in the difference between F.G.F. and Good has taken place. Even so, there appears to be room for further modification, especially in fine cotton, the stock of which is admittedly large. Brown, white, and all Sudan growths have been neglected. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 6th instant were returned as 10,280 bales. The large stocks held in this country are at last showing signs of shrinkage, but even allowing for a continuance of the present good trade in Egyptian cotton, there should be more than enough to satisfy the needs of the Lancashire spinners. If there is to be any shortage at all this season present indications point to its being felt in the Upper market first. Crop news continues to be favourable, and a comparatively large yield is expected for 1923-24. Total sales 6,000 bales (including 10 bales Sudan). Quotations of F.G.F. Sakellaridis are reduced 15 points; those of good to ex. fine 25 points. Brown and Upper are 19 points lower on the week. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 15.75d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

No Important Changes.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 14 states :—

There is no material change to report with regard to the state of affairs in this market. The re-entry into activity of the British Government on the questions of Reparations and the French occupation of the Ruhr is generally welcomed as a step towards the removing of what is felt to be one of the main difficulties in the way of that revival of trade which is so badly needed.

Yarn.—The present much reduced output appears quite, if not more than, ample to meet demands, and no improvement in the position of the firms spinning the coarser counts can be recorded. The steady demand for the finer qualities continues. With regard to the former, it is generally conceded that the basic prices fixed by the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation are unobtainable. Shipments during June were 10,029,300 lb., against 12,574,500 lb. in May, and 15,743,900 lb. in June last year.

Cloth.—There has, perhaps, been a little more life in this section, but most of the inquiry continues to be at prices which cannot be accepted. A moderate trade has been done for China; India has been disappointing. There is a slightly more optimistic feeling with regard to Near Eastern markets owing to the improved political outlook at Lausanne. As is usual at this season of the year, the home trade is very quiet. Shipments of cloth last month were 300,669,100 square yards, against 409,962,600 square yards in the previous month, and 311,907,300 square yards in June last year.

Raw Cotton.—Values have changed little on the week. Business done in Liverpool continues to be on a small scale. Reports from America with regard to the growing crop have, generally speaking, been favourable, and those from Egypt very good. Closing prices are as follows :—American fully middling, 15.94; Egyptian fully good fair, 15.65.

The progress report of Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., and allied companies (including the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd.) for June shows that the crude oil production for the month was 5,516 tons and the throughput of the refinery 5,050.

JAMES S. TULL
(LEVANT CO., LTD.)
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BRANCHES AND AGENCIES :

Varna, Bourgas, Widin, Roustchouk, Philippopolis, Tyrnovo, Plevna, Gorna-Orechovitza, Tatar-Pazardjik, Kazanlik, Doubnitza, Stara-Zagora, Shumen, Iamboli, Tchipan, Sliven, Tcherven-Breg.

Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

It is officially announced that the Prince of Wales has consented to become President of the British Empire Exhibition. His Royal Highness has hitherto been President only of the General Committee.

The report of the board of the Exhibition for the month ended June 30 states that the record of the Exhibition has been one of steady progress. There have been several gratifying evidences of the progress of enthusiasm in the Home Country, Dominions, and Colonies.

The construction of the concrete floor of the Indian pavilion has been practically finished, and a beginning has been made with the erection of the steel work for the towers. The progress on this building is generally good. Good progress has been made with the construction of the Burma pavilion. The site has been cleared and the construction of the foundations practically finished, and work begun with the construction of the flooring.

ROUMANIAN BOND SERVICE.

In the House of Commons on July 16, Brigadier-General Spears asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the fact that the Roumanian Government had not even yet resumed sinking fund operations and payment of interest in gold lei on Roumanian Government Four per Cent. bonds, although they were under contract with the pre-war British holders of those bonds, he would consider making strong recommendations to the Roumanian Finance Minister on the subject.

Mr. McNeill: During the Roumanian Finance Minister's visit to London representations were made to him, as I informed the hon. member on July 11, on all the various subjects affecting the economic and financial relations of Great Britain and Roumania. The specific point referred to by the hon. and gallant member has, moreover, been brought to the notice of the Roumanian Minister in London—I regret to say, so far without any result whatever.

ROUMANIA AND BRITISH CREDITORS.

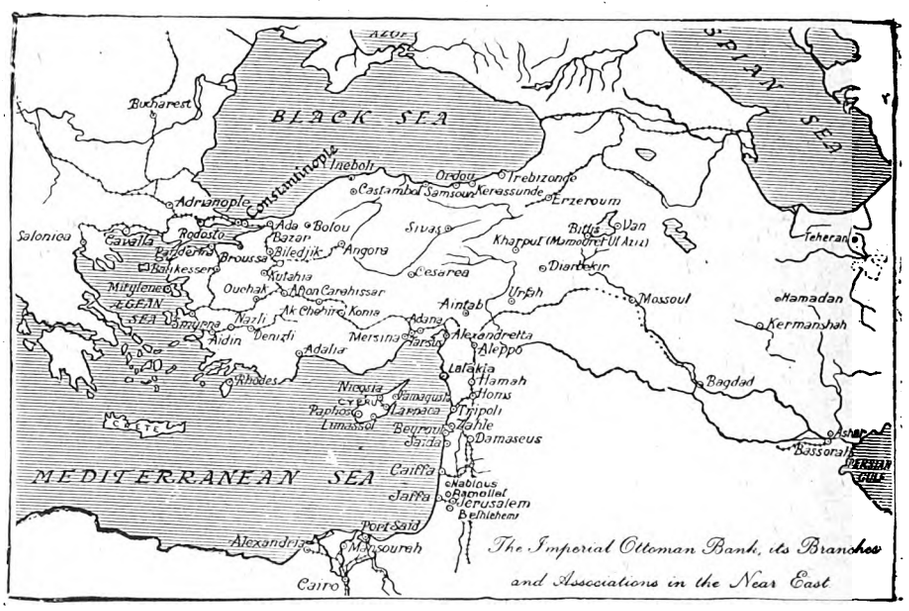
In the House of Commons on July 16, Mr. Arthur Michael Samuel asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he was aware that the agreement signed with the Roumanian Commission for the settlement of private debts due to British commercial creditors had been varied by the Roumanian law of June 2, 1923; whether he would point out to the Roumanian Minister of Finance, who had this week arrived here, that Article 12 of the new law was regarded by British creditors as being contrary to the existing agreement to which H.E. M. N. Titulesco was a party; and would he request the Roumanian Government to give effect to the judicial decisions in favour of British subjects pronounced by the Roumanian courts of law against Roumanian commercial debtors.

Lieut.-Colonel Buckley: I have been asked to reply. The matter has been discussed with M. Bratianu, and I understand that as the result of further discussions which have taken place between representatives of British creditors and M. Bratianu, the latter has undertaken that the law in question shall be so amended as to bring it into conformity with the agreements and remove the hardships it inflicts in its present form on British creditors.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
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Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

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Company Meeting.

P. AND O. BANKING CORPORATION.

Third Annual Meeting.

Presiding on July 13 at the third ordinary meeting of shareholders of the P. and O. Banking Corporation, Limited, Lord Inchcape (the report and accounts having been taken as read) said he would like, in the first place, to refer to the loss the bank had sustained in the death of two of its directors, Sir Richard Vassar Smith and Sir Duncan Carmichael, both valued colleagues who had taken a deep interest in the bank's concerns. The former had been succeeded by Lord Selborne, a director of Lloyds Bank, of which Sir Richard was Chairman.

Expansion of the Bank's Business.

The total figures of the balance sheet, all items of which showed expansion, had risen from £13,000,000 to £22,500,000, a gratifying feature being the rise in current deposit and other accounts to £10,000,000 from £6,316,000 a year ago. Their cash position was very strong indeed, and nobody would cavil at the large liquid balances of nearly £5,000,000, representing about 50 per cent. of their demand liabilities, which they had thought it necessary, even at the expense of profits, to retain in these uncertain days. The meeting would be glad to note that the item "Bills discounted" had increased to over £4,500,000, and included such liquid assets as £2,630,000 in British and Indian Government Treasury Bills.

Effects of Trade Depression.

The bank's securities, save for the permanent investment in the Allahabad Bank, were all British or Indian Government securities. The decrease in advances to customers to £2,850,000 from £3,490,758 a year ago reflected the depression in trade. Money rates had been low and, having opened, in the first three years of the bank's existence, eight branches in the East, they had had to carry a load of new development which, apart from the heavy initial outlay involved, could not at once yield its quota of profit.

Valuation of Rupee Assets and Liabilities.

He had, he said, been asked by one or two of the shareholders to make some reference to the rate of 2s. which they had adopted for the valuation of their current rupee assets and liabilities. Some conventional valuation had to be adopted for the purpose of bringing to account their assets and liabilities in Eastern currencies, and it was immaterial what this conventional rate was so long as it was not applied to any assets and liabilities which were affected by exchange.

So far as rupees were concerned they adopted the 2s. rate because at the time the bank came into existence that was the official rate, and they had maintained it because it was still the official rate. But this rate was not the rate at which they had converted their profit and loss items which had been brought to account at the rate ruling at the close of their financial year. So also had the rupee securities been valued at the rate prevailing on March 31, as the auditors' report made clear. In fact, all items in the balance sheet affected by exchange had been valued at the rate current on March 31, and the funds remitted towards the purchase of their premises in Bombay had been valued at the rate at which they were remitted, which was below 1s. 4d.

Their paramount investment in the Allahabad Bank stood at the purchase price, and this had been remitted to India at about 1s. 5d. per rupee. Despite financial trouble in India the Allahabad Bank had held its own, and both as to staff and the advantage of having an affiliated bank with branches all over India, the P. and O. Bank had proved it a valuable connection, the value of which was likely to increase.

Dividend Maintained.

The profit on the year's working, £139,388, added to £14,042 brought forward, gave £153,430, from which they proposed to pay the same dividend as last year, 5½ per cent. less tax, but as by reason of Colonial relief the effective rate for tax deduction was reduced to 4s. 1½d., this would cost £14,000 more than last year, leaving them in a position to place £25,000 to reserve (bringing that fund up to £115,000), and to carry forward £15,179.

New Premises and the Staff.

The near completion of their new premises in London, already partly occupied, would provide comfortable housing for their managers and staff, and ample accommodation for the public. At their various branches abroad they had secured efficient managers and a good staff. They would, he was sure, join him in acknowledging that the results now reported reflected credit on the managers and staff at home and abroad.

The board's policy was one of prudence. They intended to go cautiously, avoiding risks as far as possible, gradually working up what they hoped would be a sound and lucrative business, and building up reserves, a course which he felt would have the support of their shareholders.

India and Europe.

The Continent of Europe, his lordship continued, was, before the war, India's best customer, and until things were settled there—as they hoped, by the influence of the Prime Minister and His Majesty's Government, they might soon be—the trade of India, of this country, and of the world generally would not revive.

In his humble judgment this country would gain far more by a settled Europe than by anything in the way of reparations she was likely to get from Germany.

The Government of India.

He had spent some months in India recently, and came away with no misgivings as to that country's position. Very considerable economies had been or were in course of being effected in the expenditure, and the Budget for the current year would balance, which had not been the case for the previous five years. The credit of India had been restored, and he was not without hope that, barring some failure of the monsoon, the days of deficits were past. Lord Reading, the Viceroy, with the aid of Lord Rawlinson, the Commander-in-Chief, was ruling India with a firm hand; steps had been taken which, so far as one could see, would secure the country from any serious attack by frontier tribes, and at the same time would admit of material reduction in military expenditure.

There were laudable aspirations on the part of the educated classes in India for a greater share in the Government of the country, and though these might be met in the course of time, he felt perfectly certain that nothing would ever be allowed to interfere with the supremacy of the British Raj. in India. He had, he concluded, no fear as to the future of Britain's great Dependency.

Mr. A. K. Wright, C.B.E., D.L., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The Dividend.

The Chairman.—I beg to propose: "That a dividend of 5½ per cent. per annum, less income-tax at 4s. 1½d., on 259,416 shares be and the same is hereby declared payable on July 20, 1923, to the members who were on the London and Bombay registers of the Corporation, respectively, on July 6, 1923."

The Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—I beg to propose: "That the retiring directors—namely, Francis Alexander Johnston, Esq., James Mackenzie, Esq., the Right Hon. the Earl of Selborne, K.G., G.C.M.G., M. M. S. Gubbay, Esq., C.S.I., C.I.E., be and the same are hereby re-elected directors of the Corporation."

Sir Montagu C. Turner seconded the motion, and it was unanimously adopted.

Mr. F Ritchie.—I beg to propose: "That Messrs. W. B. Peat and Co. be re-elected auditors of the Corporation, to hold office until the next annual general meeting, and that they be paid an annual fee of £300 for the audit of the Corporation's accounts."

Mr. F. White seconded the resolution, and it was carried.

Vote of Thanks.

Mr. Norman McLeod.—Gentlemen: It is my very pleasant duty to propose a vote of thanks to our chairman. The virtues of Lord Inchcape are so well known and world-wide that it is quite unnecessary for me to reiterate though I fully endorse them. It is quite possible that some shareholders may have expected substantial progress in the bank, but we who have any connection with India know how difficult the time under review has been and are satisfied to look with confidence to the future. We have known Lord Inchcape for a long time in his successful career, and we have no doubt that under his guidance the P. and O. Bank will be equally successful and flourish. I have, therefore, to ask that you will accord him a hearty vote of thanks. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. H. James, in seconding the motion, expressed appreciation of the courtesy which he had invariably experienced at the hands of all the members of the staff.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Chairman.—I am very much obliged to you for the kind way in which you have spoken of myself, and I take it that in proposing a vote of thanks to me you also include my colleagues. In regard to our staff I am extremely gratified to hear that you find every courtesy extended to you, and you may be sure that it is the wish of the directors all through that that should prevail.

The proceedings then terminated.

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(Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1889.)

CAPITAL (fully paid) - £650,000 | RESERVE - - - - - £340,000

Reserve Liability of Shareholders, £1,000,000.

Branches at Ahwaz, Bunder Abbas, Bushire, Duzdab, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kazvin, Kerman, Kermanshah, Meshed, Mohommerah, Nasratabad, Resht, Shiraz, Shuhstar, Sultanabad, Tabriz and Yezd.
Agencies at Busreh, Bagdad and Bombay.

The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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IONIAN BANK, Ltd.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL - - - £600,000
PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - £485,580
RESERVE - - - - - - - - - £150,000

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Managing Governors in India:—
Sir ROBERT AITKEN
Sir BERNARD HUNTER
London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - Rs. 11.25.00.000
Paid-up Capital - - Rs. 5.62.50.000
Reserve - - - - Rs. 4.22.50.000

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London Branch: 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

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Established in Calcutta, 29th September, 1863.

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AUTHORISED CAPITAL ... £4,000,000 | Paid-up Capital ... £2,000,000
Subscribed Capital ... £4,000,000 | Reserve Fund ... £2,70 0,000

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman*. ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman*.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD. J. DUNCAN NIMMO, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

HEAD OFFICE: 26, BISHOPSGATE, LONDON, E.C.2.

BRANCHES.

Calcutta	Cawnpore	Tuticorin	Mandalay	Kandy	Mombasa	Kenya Colony (Brit. E. Africa)	Entebbe
Bombay	Lahore	Cochin (S. India)	Aden	Newera Eliya	Nairobi		Kampala
Madras	Amritsar	Chittagong	Aden, Steamer Point	Zanzibar	Nakuru		Jinia
Karachi	Delhi	Rangoon	Colombo		Kaiumu		Uganda

TANGANYIKA TERRITORY—Dar-es-Salaam, Tanga.

The Bank purchases, grants advances against or collects Bills payable in India, Burma, Ceylon, Aden, Zanzibar, British East Africa, Uganda, etc., on current terms.

The Bank issues Drafts on its Branches, as well as on its Agents in the principal towns of India and Burma, Africa and elsewhere, and also sells Telegraphic Transfer on all its Branches, at the exchange of the day.

The Bank, on behalf of its Constituents, undertakes the collection of Furlough Pay and Pension from the India and Colonial Offices, the Custody of Government and other Securities, and the receipt of interest and Dividends thereon.

Powers of Attorney or other forms and any information required may be had on application to the Bank in London or any of its Branches.

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Capital
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Fully Paid.

Head Office:—SOFIA.

Branches:

BOURGAS, PHILIPPOPOLIS, ROUSTCHUK, VARNA.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ITALIENNE & BULGARE, SOFIA.

Capital - Leva 12 millions.
Reserves - Leva 556,000.

FILIATION DE LA BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA, MILANO.

Capital - - L.It. 400 millions.
Reserves - - - 176 millions.

SUCCURSALE A VARNA,
Adresse Télégraph: "Bulcomit."

BULGARSKA BANKA.

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

Capital - 60,000,000 Levas

Head Office - SOFIA

Branches at Varna, Rustchuk, — Philippopolis and Sliven —

Telegraphic Address: Promichlenbank.

The Bank has extensive connections in the principal Cities of the World. It conducts every kind of Banking operations, and undertakes the collection of Bills on moderate terms throughout Bulgaria.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 637—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Lausanne and After.

A Treaty of Peace may be signed at Lausanne and agreement may be reached on the future of Turkey, but there can be no final settlement of the Near Eastern question until the more serious causes of friction in the Balkans have been removed. The Lausanne Conference has left Bulgaria without access to the Ægean Sea, and has made no attempt to deal with the problem of Macedonia. As things are, no one would now ask the Conference to prolong still further its unduly protracted labours to settle these matters; but there is no reason why they should not engage immediately the attention of the countries directly concerned. Only in a spirit of give and take will a solution ultimately be found. Political conditions in the Balkans, however, generally require that each Government, for the sake of its own position at home, should insist upon doing all the taking and none of the giving. To circumvent this difficulty, we would urge upon the Governments of Yugoslavia, Greece, and Bulgaria to appoint delegates, preferably not members of the party in power, to meet, together with representatives of Roumania and the Macedonian movement, in conference, for the purpose of exploring the ground for a general settlement of all outstanding questions. The decisions of the conference would bind no country and would commit no Government: but it would be a notable step towards an ultimate settlement if fair-minded men from each country could discuss amicably the questions at issue with a view to discovering whether the sacrifices required to achieve agreement are not likely to prove in the long run lighter than the sacrifices entailed by perpetuating disagreement.

Egypt and the Hejaz.

The Hejaz version of the dispute with Egypt over the Mecca pilgrimage suggests that the Egyptian Government has acted hastily in the matter, and it remains to be seen whether the latter can remove this impression. King Hussein declares that on receipt of a telegram sent by his representatives in London, at the request of the Foreign Office, he dispatched his Prime Minister and the Chief Justice from Mecca to Jeddah to consult with the Egyptian official in charge of the Egyptian pilgrims. These Ministers informed the Emir el Haj that King Hussein was quite willing to receive both him and the Egyptian Medical Mission, and that he had a free hand to import all the medicines and hospital equipment required and to make full use of the hospitals both at Mecca and at Jeddah. It was only when the Emir el Haj insisted that he had to establish hospitals at Jeddah and Mecca, and would issue orders to the Hejaz officials, that the Shereefian Government announced that it could not brook such an infraction of its sovereign rights. Thereupon the Emir broke off negotiations and left for Egypt. Unless the Egyptian Government can controvert this version, the incident points to crude handling on both sides, as it may be presumed that some trouble had occurred before the British Government recommended King Hussein to adopt a more conciliatory attitude.

The Pitfalls of Independence.

It will not be very wide of the mark to infer that there is more behind the quarrel between Egypt and the Hejaz than the size or the claims of the medical mission escorting the Holy Carpet. With their newly acquired independence, the two countries have failed to appreciate the value of the doctrine "Live and let live." The Egyptians are criticised in the Hejaz for their exaggerated passion for a Constitution. "They have the Koran and God's laws, and need nothing more," writes the official organ in Mecca. Constitutions, it is evident, are not going to be encouraged in the Hejaz, and the danger of having the suspect thing so close to the country is recognised. The Egyptians on their part are inclined to interfere, at least verbally, in the relations between King Hussein and other Arab States. Whether the motive be anxiety lest Great Britain secures in Arabia the position that Egypt would like to earmark for herself, or whether the motive be a worthier one, there would seem little cause for the two neighbours to fall foul of one another at this stage.

Education in Cyprus.

As will be seen from a telegram that reaches us from the Greek Press Bureau in Cyprus, a pother is being raised in that island over a new Education Bill that has recently been passed by the Legisla-

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tive Assembly, giving greater powers to the Government with the object of raising the standard of teaching. The system in vogue hitherto represents a gradual expansion of the conditions existing when the British took over the island in 1878. The onus of maintaining and managing its school has been left to the village, which appoints the teacher, and it is only when the Village Committee fails to do its duty, or when disputes arise, that the higher authorities intervene. As may be imagined, this system, with its uncertainty of tenure for teachers, coupled with a low scale of salaries and the absence of a pensions scheme, has handicapped education in Cyprus. Already in 1913 the Government proposed to remodel the educational system, but the outbreak of the War prevented any action being taken. The purpose of the new legislation, it is understood, is to improve the status of teachers by means of Government grants, making, as a natural consequence, their posts no longer subject solely to the whim of the Village Committee. From the fact that the Metropolitans are associated with the agitation against the new measure it may be inferred that the movement is entirely political, as these prelates are closely identified with the opposition to the present régime. There is, of course, no question of encroachment upon the religious liberties of the people; religious teaching in the schools conforms with an established curriculum, and teachers in the Christian elementary schools are required to be members of the Orthodox Church. The British Government has offered to listen to any representations on the subject, but the Cypriot delegate charged with this important mission has so far not journeyed farther than Paris.

Britain and Afghanistan.

At a meeting of the East India Association last week Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant, formerly Chief Commissioner of the North-West Frontier Province, stressed the necessity for the cultivation and maintenance of the friendliest relations with the Ameer of Afghanistan. The menace of an invasion of India by Russian armies was for the present outside the range of practical politics; but the Bolshevists had realised the useful part that Afghanistan could play as a centre for the transmission of their propaganda in India. All that Great Britain and India required of the Ameer was that he should not allow his country to become a focus of intrigue against us, and that he should co-operate with us for the maintenance of peace on the common border. The Ameer, on his part, required assistance in money and munitions for the internal and external safeguarding of his realm, and, above all, honourable recognition and treatment. One of the mistakes made in the past had been the treating of Afghanistan as a petty little State, "to be browbeaten and ordered about at our pleasure, without allowing for the sensitiveness of the Afghan, and without recognising the valuable cards that the Ameer held against us."

Facilities for Afghan Students.

The tendency on the part of Afghanistan to draw for its material development from as wide a sphere as possible may be the inevitable tendency of its sudden emancipation from Indian leading-strings. Great Britain is not likely to become an advocate of the closed door policy in regard to the Afghans; but it may do well to take careful note of the extent to which Germany is filling the rôle of mentor and instructor to the new régime at Kabul. British industry is fully capable of looking after its own interests, and will no doubt pay attention to the potentialities of the Afghan market. Where we should like to see the British Government lend a helping hand is in the encouragement of the student class of Afghanistan to complete their studies in Great Britain. The depreciated currencies of France and Germany are such a great asset to those countries in attracting foreign students that a definite effort on the part of the British Government is required if we are not to see the youth of the countries in which the Empire has a special interest drawn away to French and German educational institutions. Some time ago we drew attention to the number of Afghans studying in France: there would seem to be even more in Germany. Apart from the fact that the sympathies of these returned students are likely to be always with the country where they were educated, they must directly or indirectly influence the Afghans in the choice of markets from which they will obtain their goods in the future.

The New Order.

It may seem strange that Sir Alfred Hamilton Grant should consider his warning necessary in a year when the Royal Asiatic Society celebrates its centenary, and when such bodies as the Central Asian Society and the East India Association exist for the spread of a better understanding of the peoples of Asia. Too much insistence, however, cannot be placed on the fact that a new orientation is called for in the whole of our Eastern policy, as no race in the world has remained outside the reach of the new spirit actuating the nations since the Great War. It is perhaps fortunate for Great Britain that this spirit of independence and the bacillus of self-help have permeated the whole world at once. Their presence has helped us not a little to divest ourselves of lingering ideas of incongruity attaching to the Nationalist movement in such countries as India and Egypt. With both Afghanistan and Turkey assured of complete independence, it is conceivable that Moslem States will now begin to institute comparisons among themselves instead of thinking only of Islam as pitted against Christianity. Already the constitutional theories that have found favour in Egypt and Turkey are obtaining a wider vogue; the Hejaz is being reminded that its medical knowledge is not up to standard, and it is certain that, if Irak makes more of its own resources now than it did under the Ottoman régime, Turkey will hear of it. All this makes for progress; it is to be hoped that it will also make for peace.

Indian Expenditure in England.

Last week's debate on the East India Loans Bill was marked by the intervention of two ex-Ministers in favour of a proposal to require that the bulk of the money borrowed by India should be spent in this country. One does not now look to Mr. Lloyd George for guidance on economic questions, but Mr. Austen Chamberlain speaks with authority, and his argument for protecting British workmen calls for some notice. The scientific economist will, of course, brush it aside on the ground that a foreign loan necessarily involves the export of its equivalent in goods or services, and consequently any formal limitation in its terms would be a waste of ink or would at most favour some British producers at the cost of others. The plain man objects that, in the present state of Indian feeling, any proposal of the kind is sure to be regarded as a revival of the obsolete idea of exploiting a helpless dependency, and will thus serve as fresh fuel to a dying fire. Both classes of critics may find common ground in the fact that, without any such limitation, nineteen-twentieths of recent Indian loans have been spent directly on British goods, and the House evidently thought that this was sufficient, for the proposal was rejected without a division.

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The Indian Services Commission.

The announcement issued early this month that the Indian Services Commission would not assemble until November was accepted in this country with more or less resignation as an admission that Viscount Peel's hopes of hustle had been disappointed. The mail papers now to hand show that in the last week of June Indian members of the Commission were still protesting against the instructions to sail for England without delay, so it is, perhaps, allowable to infer that the idea of an immediate meeting was abandoned in deference to them, and not at the instance of the English members; but, whoever is to blame, the result is greatly to be regretted. The outstanding issues are few and comparatively simple, but they will get more and more treacherous as the months roll on. The Commission will meet for the first time about ten months after the decision to appoint it was reached, and will, perhaps, examine its first witness on what should have been the date of submission of its first report. Meanwhile open sores will have festered through another hot weather, and it is safe to conclude that the task of the members will have grown in difficulty, as well as volume.

The Royal Asiatic Society.

The Royal Asiatic Society has successfully accomplished the celebration of its centenary in accordance with the programme which we gave last week, and the question of its future activities is now more interesting than any retrospect of its past. Whatever was the position in 1823, it is obviously impossible that any committee, however gifted, should exercise effective control or guidance over the huge mass of Asiatic scholarship which has grown up in the last hundred years, and it looks rather as if the society might by and by find itself sidetracked by the advent of independent competitors, more limited in range and more ardent in attack. We trust that the men who direct it will bear in mind the true significance of its badge, the banyan tree, and its motto, *Quot rami tot arbores*. The only prospect, indeed, of maintaining its position is that it should function actively as the foster-mother of localised and specialised societies. Its first century appears to have produced only four branches altogether; is it going too far to suggest that it might now advantageously set about the establishment of subsidiary organisations in every university town in Asia?

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Work of Parliament.

It is the commonest of jibes to say that no private firm could run its business as the State conducts its affairs; but not until this year has there been any serious appreciation by members of Parliament of the fact. Now, however, some attempt is to be made to arrange the sessions on business lines. This is how matters are done at the moment: Parliament meets in February; it has before March 31 to do an enormous amount of work on the Address, supplementary estimates, the chief Army, Navy, and Air Force votes, and so on, and cannot really indulge its love of legislation until April. That means that between this time and early August—the end of the session—Bills are crowded on top of each other, late sittings are the rule, and, generally, everything and everybody is in a state of congestion. But an endeavour is now being made (there was another in 1914) to get Parliament to adapt its session to the seasons of the year. A Joint Committee of both Houses is to consider a proposal that Parliament should begin its year in November, should get through the preliminary work before Christmas, and then, at the beginning of a new year, start with its legislation. All this seems very sensible; particularly, it would decrease the amount of work that has to be done in the very hot weather.

Athletics at Wembley.

There were not many who prophesied an English win in the athletic contest which took place on Saturday at the Wembley Stadium between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and Harvard and Yale; but the fearful ones were joyfully astonished to find our men winning by 6½ events to 5½. It was a very fine encounter, carried out in admirable spirit. The time is happily over when complaints could be lodged against American methods on the track, and these Harvard and Yale representatives seem to have been most excellent fellows. H. M. Abrahams, the Cambridge President, it was who settled the issue in our favour; he won the hundred, the 220, and the long jump—a remarkable athlete! People are already wondering what Cambridge will do next year without him.

The Prince in Wessex.

The visit of the Prince of Wales to Wessex has aroused keen interest, not only because whatever the Prince does is interesting, or because Wessex is commonly reputed to be the loyallest part of England, but also because he was entertained there by the re-creator of Wessex, Thomas Hardy. It was a beautiful *geste* this, finely conceived and executed. Here is England's first living poet, shunning and indeed loathing all advertisement, living his lonely life near Dorchester in what happiness is possible to a man of his temperament; and to him comes, simply and without the least parade or affectation, our first Prince. The lunching of the Prince with the poet struck the general imagination; and people are curious to know the details of their conversation over the table. But this, we may be sure, they will never know. Mr. Hardy has too fine a pride and reserve to publish things like this, and though the Prince's visit brought very genuine joy to the heart of this saddened philosopher, it is certain that he will not communicate to us any change in his view of life. There never was, however it may have been developed, a more inexorable or inevitable philosophy than Mr. Hardy's.

Women at Cambridge.

If there is one thing more than another in which Labour members and Feminist Liberals may be distrusted it is in the question of education. It was only by a narrow issue that they did not the other day in the House force upon the University of Cambridge the admission of women to full membership of the University. Of course, one hears it said on every foolish side that the membership of women is only a question of time, that Cambridge cannot stick out indefinitely as a cape of reaction, and so on, but, at any rate, while there is life there is hope. This, however, is not the immediate question, which is the wider one of whether or not, owing to the State subsidy, the University shall continue to have autonomy. The Senate's decision on the question of women is, of course, known to every member of the House of Commons, but, regardless of that, many of them are prepared to bind their own ignorant views upon the governing body of the University. If Cambridge cannot enjoy liberty of action, it will cease to exist; and though to Labour members this may not matter much, there are still a few people who think that would be a pity.

The Singapore Base.

It looks rather as if the Admiralty wished to get their plans for the construction of a naval base at

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Singapore ratified before the meeting of the Imperial Conference in October. Why they should be in such a hurry is not known, and while we do not doubt that their reason is adequate, it is hard to see why it is uncommunicable. As far as one can judge, they have public opinion with them, because this country, while paying theoretical reverence to the fetish of "economy," is by no means prepared to take any chances over the Navy. No one is seriously troubled by the absence of an answer to the question: Who is going to attack us? All we know is that, in spite of friendly policies and intentions, enemies have a habit of arising from somewhere. Quite obviously this plan is one of defence, not of aggression, and it is recognised as such by foreign observers. Certainly it has its critics, but on main grounds it is approved both at home and in the colonies.

Our Labour Party.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has hit upon a most ingenious method of political criticism, which he employs apparently only in front of his own followers. He simply says that every bad thing that has happened has come from the present Government, and that every good thing has come from the Labour Party. There are no brains in our poor Government, it seems, for every wise thing it has done, whether in finance, in foreign policy, or in industrial affairs, has been copied from the Labour Party. It is so easy to be wise after the event, and to say, when matters have turned out well, that that is exactly what you would have done. But this is not the only thing the Labour Party can do; it also knows how to avert war. Unfortunately, it is, according to Mr. MacDonald, the only party which does know how to avert war, and since it is not in power at the moment, that is rather hard luck for us. As a matter of fact, this sort of nonsense does not deceive the English working man, who remembers that there are certain Labour members whose method of averting war is mere refraining from fighting.

The Union of the Churches.

The ecclesiastically-minded are now indulging in a riot of conferences. First came the Anglo-Catholics, the success of whose meetings exceeded all expectations and worked Mr. John Kensit to his traditional frenzy; and now we have the Wesleyan Conference, graced by the presence of no less a divine than the Archbishop of Canterbury. That the men who, at the Lambeth Conference, saw in the reunion of the Churches a hope of salvation were in earnest was made manifest from his words. In pleading for re-union he said that the right way was to take the simplest presentation of the truth of the Gospel. Of all ways this is undoubtedly the likeliest; it is the way which appeals particularly to Englishmen; but one can hardly say that the Anglo-Catholics are wrong when they point out that this very way has been tried and has failed. Once more is the conviction forced home upon one that it is not the divisions between churchmen that so much matter; it is rather the growing mass of people outside all doctrine which causes anxiety. And whether Wesleyanism or moderate Anglicanism or a compromise between them can ever have again sufficient fire to kindle souls is at least open to doubt. For the conversion of indifferent minds one should probably look to the extremer forms of faith in this country.

The Hospitals.

One has always admired the medical profession of all others, for in no class of men is the idea of service more deeply planted than in doctors. Perhaps they lost a little caste over their acceptance of Mr. Lloyd George's notorious Insurance Act, but by most people their perplexed conduct at that time has been forgotten. In their recent conference at Portsmouth they showed their finest qualities. For when the proposal that part of the moneys contributed by patients to hospitals should go to form a fund for the partial remuneration of honorary medical staffs, they promptly rejected it. The parliament of the doctors decided, in fact, that the voluntary system for the hospitals is much the best way—that, in short, the hospitals, of which we have heard so much lately, must go on begging from the public and the profession. This decision was entirely admirable, and was provoked just as much by the love of service as by the more prosaic view that if medical service in the hospitals were not free, the appeals that they have periodically to launch would be less generously answered. That our hospitals should cease to exist is incredible; but the issue is now more clearly than ever seen to rest upon the public.

The Holiday Spirit.

Surely and very perceptibly the holiday spirit is possessing London. People will talk about where they are going instead of working; travellers say it is hopeless to call on anybody, because they are away, or just going away; and, generally speaking, all eyes are turned from the metropolis to the sea. Everyone says that they hate crowds, and yet already at the big termini can be seen families perspiringly jostling one another in the greatest good will and confusion. Somebody, of course, must stop behind to do the work, but one never seems to come across these people, and the quality of the work done in London during August cannot be very high. "Of course, it's all for the children's sake," say the stern, business-loving fathers, but nobody believes them at all. It is a dreadful worry, the fixing up of a holiday, but, on the whole, well worth the trouble.

Alter Ego.

The Postmaster-General announces that the date of despatch of the air mail from Baghdad had been advanced. The mail will now normally reach London every alternate Monday, so that replies can be forwarded by the outgoing air mail despatched from London on the following Thursday. The arrangement came into force on July 12, and the mail despatched from Baghdad on that date reached London on July 23. The next air mail to Baghdad will be despatched from London to-day.

The Mahmal (Holy Carpet) has been brought back from Jeddah and landed at Suez.

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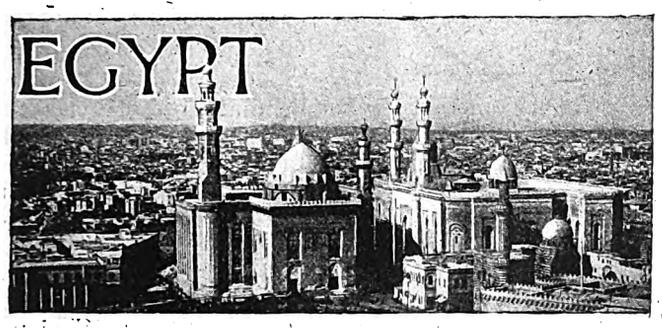

Cairo, July 7.

The End of Martial Law.

The long-looked-for day has come at last, and Egypt is freed from British martial law. On Thursday the country entered upon its full constitutional freedom, governed by its own laws. As I have indicated in previous letters, it has been expected for weeks past that the Indemnity Act would be promulgated and martial law abolished at the end of June or the beginning of July. The Act is a very brief document, with but two main clauses, and confined, so far as its intention goes, to preventing legal proceedings being taken against bodies and persons who have used powers conferred upon them under martial law. The Proclamation which puts an end to the régime of martial law is equally brief, being confined to its main purpose and the subsidiary end of empowering the Public Custodian to continue his administration of enemy property in Egypt.

The correspondence between the High Commissioner and the Egyptian Government, which is annexed to the foregoing two documents, is, perhaps, of more interest than the Proclamation and the Act themselves. The very vexed question of the ownership and future disposal of the lands, such as the Royal Air Force Base at Aboukir, taken over by the British military authorities since the declaration of martial law on November 2, 1914, is settled in what is, perhaps, in the circumstances, the only possible manner. The Egyptian Government undertakes to respect the *status quo*, thereby confirming the taking over of these lands, while the two Governments agree to defer final settlement of the question until the ultimate negotiations between Egypt and Great Britain are embarked upon. That it will then be easy to reach a solution satisfactory to both parties seems at present most improbable. This question of the lands occupied by the British authorities under martial law is one to which the Arabic newspapers have devoted much space in persistent attempts to rouse public feeling. The argument used is that it constitutes a trespass on Egypt's sovereignty for any part of Egyptian territory to be in the ownership of another Power. It will undoubtedly be very difficult ever to convince any Egyptian Government or any set of Egyptian negotiators of the acceptability of the British standpoint in this matter of the occupied lands. Prince Omar Pasha Toussoun, who was never a willing party to the occupation of his Aboukir lands, and to whom some very rash promises, that trees should not be felled and that the lands should be returned after the conclusion of peace, were made during the War, has seized the opportunity of the abolition of martial law to address a letter to the Egyptian Government and the High Commissioner, reminding them of the promises given, and stating that unless his property is returned, he will take action in the Courts against the Egyptian Government. His is a typical attitude. Undoubtedly there will be rocks ahead when this question is reached in the negotiations which are to settle finally all outstanding questions between the two Governments.

A Satisfactory Compromise.

On the other hand, it is obvious that no Egyptian Government could at this stage have made further concessions on this point. To have settled the question out of hand, before the elected representatives of the people have an opportunity of discussing it, would have been impossible.

The only remaining features of the correspondence that call for comment are the setting up of a committee composed of British and Egyptian judges, with the Judicial Adviser as President, to advise the Egyptian Government regarding the release of persons sentenced by military courts—of whom 250 are being released at once—and a reservation providing for the continuance of the Conspiracy Trial, which has been proceeding since April 5 last, and for the enforcement of its finding and sentences.

Arabic Press Comment.

The reception by the native Press of the Indemnity Act and its accompanying agreements can only be described as rather disappointing. It might have been hoped that the vernacular newspapers, though they for ever "hear a voice in every wind and snatch a fearful joy" in discerning everywhere the cloven hoof of British Imperialism, would at last recognise this real and tangible proof of Great Britain's good intentions towards Egypt. For the most part, however, comment has ignored the real and vitally important aspect of Great Britain's action, and has devoted itself to captious criticism of details and of the wording of the correspondence.

Troubles of the Wafd.

The Wafd has not yet expressed any opinion on the subject, but is reported to be preparing to unburden itself of another manifesto, characteristically deploring the "new shackles" laid upon Egypt. Indeed, there would be something lacking did not the Wafd produce its normal howl of protest. Each successive step forward during recent months has resulted in a manifesto from these obstructionists, who want no independence and no concessions not of their own obtaining. It seems that matters are going far from well with the Wafd these days. So long as Zaghloul Pasha was in exile, and there was a steady flow of Wafd members into prisons and internment camps, all was well. Such undeniable proofs of patriotism as the presence of their leaders in gaol gave the Zaghloulists a great advantage over their opponents of the Con-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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stitutional Liberal Party, whose members did not consider it necessary to get arrested in order to prove their love of the Fatherland. But now that even their noisiest agitators are free to do and say what they like, the Wafd has lost one of its strongest arguments. Besides, they suffer from a terrible *embarras de richesses* in the matter of leaders. The four successive executive committees are all at large, and their members, having enjoyed the limelight, are finding it hard to have to return to back seats. Difficulties are also being experienced in the provincial constituencies. The active Wafd supporters have been for the most part lawyers and doctors, residents of the big towns; but much valuable support has been received from wealthy provincial landowners. Now that the list of candidates is being drawn up, the men who have borne the heat and burden of the fight demand that comfortable provincial constituencies be found for them. But here they tread on the toes of the landed gentry, who wish that they themselves or their sons should represent their own districts. The sending down by the Wafd executive of carpet-bag lawyer candidates is resented. This is one particular cause of friction. Another more general source of trouble consists in the heterogeneous nature of the Zaghloulist Party. A considerable number of honest, self-sacrificing patriots, such as the leader himself and some of his lieutenants, is mixed with the vast mass of time-servers, office-seekers, political turn-coats, and men with no political principles beyond seeking their own advantage. In such a mongrel crowd fissiparous tendencies are inevitably manifesting themselves. Should a Zaghloulist Government take office, its plight will be appalling. For every Ministerial portfolio there will be ten candidates, for every Under-Secretaryship a hundred, while a thousand aspirants to every Director-Generalship will each consider their claims to appointment immensely greater than those of their rivals. It remains to be seen whether Zaghloul Pasha will return to Egypt to restore unity to his followers, already quarrelling, in anticipation, over a division of the spoils of victory at the polls.

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A British Moslem's Visit.

It is seldom that an Englishman enjoys in Egypt such a reception as has been accorded to Lord Headley, the leading British Moslem, who is now in this country, *en route* for Mecca, whither he is going to perform the pilgrimage. Religious dignitaries at Port Said, where he landed from the s.s. Macedonia on Wednesday, Cairo, and Alexandria have vied with each other to do him honour. At a big reception yesterday afternoon, at the Khoronfish residence of El Sayed el Bakry, Lord Headley made a speech, contrasting the teachings of Islam with those of Christianity.

July 14.

The Aly Bey Fahmy Tragedy.

The tragic death of Aly Bey Fahmy has cast a gloom over Cairo more general than I can remember in connection with the death of anybody else in recent years. Aly Bey was so well known to everybody in Egypt; he was so young and so full of *joie de vivre*, and his end, coming in this sudden and violent fashion, has been a great shock, even to those who knew him only by sight and reputation. The son of the late Aly Pasha Fahmy, Aly Bey inherited huge estates which brought him in an income of £E50,000 or £E60,000—sometimes as much as £E120,000—annually. Everything that Aly Bey did was done magnificently. His seven or eight motor-cars included two Rolls-Royces and two Mercedes. His 400 h.p. Sunbeam engined motor-boat was the fastest and finest craft of its class on the Nile; he had a box at the opera every night of the week; his new villa on the river bank is said to have cost him £E120,000; and so on with everything else. He went everywhere and did everything, and must have been known by sight to more people than anybody else in Cairo.

The Pilgrimage Dispute.

A very curious dispute has arisen between the Egyptian and Hejaz Governments regarding the medical contingent sent each year with the Mahmal to the Hejaz to meet the needs of pilgrims from this country. This year, in consequence of the prevalence of plague in the Near and Middle East, the Egyptian Government slightly increased the strength of the contingent, notifying the Hejaz Government of the fact. The increase is in itself of no importance, as there is no fixed number of doctors to be sent each year, and, since the medical men are themselves pilgrims, and only incidentally with the pilgrimage to render any medical assistance that may be needed, there would appear to be no reasonable grounds for objection if the Egyptian Government sent a hundred of them. But this year, for some reason or other not yet discovered, King Hussein has taken exception to the medical mission's accompanying the Egyptian pilgrims on the ground that the Hejaz is an independent State, possessed of its own adequate medical service, and that the coming of the Egyptian doctors constitutes a slight to the Hejaz Government's own arrangements for the care of the pilgrims, and also an affront to the sovereignty of the Hejaz.

This is the first time that any such objection has

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been raised, although the Egyptian Government has been in the custom of sending its own medical men, to care for its own nationals, since time immemorial. A military escort also accompanies the Mahmal, but to this no objection has been taken by King Hussein, although it would appear to be far more capable of being considered as an encroachment on a country's independence to send within its territories an organised body of troops than to send a few doctors.

King Hussein.

Several explanations have been put forward to account for King Hussein's action. There is a story of an Egyptian doctor who was serving with Egyptian troops in the Hejaz in 1917, and who remained in the country, gaining the confidence of the King and being appointed to an important post in the Hejaz medical service. He, it is suggested by the Egyptian Press, does not care to have his methods viewed by other Egyptian doctors, and so has prevailed upon King Hussein to refuse to allow them into the country. Then again, King Hussein has recently been most bitterly attacked by the local Arabic Press, and it is thought that this criticism may have helped to induce his present obstructive attitude where Egypt is concerned. But those who have had experience of King Hussein in the past say that he is a remarkably stubborn old man, from whose mind an idea, once fixed there, cannot be dislodged. Previously he has done the most unaccountable things, and it has been most difficult to convince him of the wisdom of modifying his attitude. In the present case he seems determined not to give way, and, as the Egyptian Government is equally decided not to yield, a rupture of diplomatic relations between the two Governments is by no means impossible. A meeting of the Council of Ministers to discuss the matter was held at Alexandria this morning, the Grand Mufti and the Rector of Al Azhar being present. Asked their opinion regarding the Government's intention to order the Emir el Haj to return with the Mahmal, its escort, the medical personnel, and the sum of £E8,000, which is the amount of the annual subsidy paid by the Egyptian Government to the Hejaz Government in respect of the pilgrimage, the two religious leaders concurred in the proposed course of action. In addition to the loss of the subsidy, the Hejaz would forfeit the shipment of wheat which is annually sent from Egypt for distribution among the pilgrims gathered at Mecca. There would also be the loss of the money normally spent by the pilgrims while in Arabia, for a large number of those from Egypt would rather return from Jeddah than complete the pilgrimage without the Mahmal and its escort. As the total number of pilgrims proceeding to Mecca this year is not much over 10,000, of whom more than 5,000 are from Egypt, the Hejaz would feel the withdrawal somewhat severely.

It is probable that the rupture of diplomatic relations would follow the order for the return of the Mahmal. This would not amount to very much, for Egypt has no representative in the Hejaz, while King Hussein's envoy in Cairo, el Sayad Abdel Malek el Khateeb, is not recognised by the Egyptian Government. He would, however, almost certainly be requested to leave the country.

Egypt's Diplomatic Service.

Once again the local Press is busy speculating on the appointment of diplomatic representatives of Egypt abroad. Every day new names are suggested. At the moment the newspaper favourites are, for London, Prince Djemil Toussoun, brother of Prince Omar Toussoun, or Aziz Pasha Ezzet; for Paris, Mahmoud Pasha Fakhry, son-in-law of King Fuad; and, for Rome, Mohammed Pasha Moheb, at present Minister of Finance. The nomination of a Minister at Washington is, according to the newspapers, giving the Government food for much thought, it being more difficult to find an Egyptian with the qualities likely to make for success in an envoy to the United States than as representative at Paris or Italy. Among the candidates for a First Secretaryship in London or Washington is Dr. Ibrahim Rashad, a young Egyptian of remarkable attainments, holding the M.A. of Cambridge University, the B.Sc. of Bristol University, the Ph.D. of the University of Ireland, and the diplomas of the agricultural colleges of Wye and Cirencester, besides having done five years at St. Thomas's Hospital, and only missing his final examination because, when the Balkan War broke out in 1912, he abandoned his medical studies and joined the British Red Cross contingent to Turkey. Dr. Rashad is at present Professor of Rural Economy at the Higher School of Agriculture.

IRAK.

Baghdad, July 12.

Tranquillity.

The country remains quiet, and the excitement occasioned by the Government's strong action against the Shiah ulema has now subsided. The Shiah tribes have taken no notice of the affair, and it seems probable that the incident, while adding considerable prestige to the Cabinet, which was strong enough to take such action, will have none of the evil results on the security of the country which pessimists were inclined to predict.

Irak and Palestine.

An arrangement has been made between the Governments of Irak and Palestine whereby documents signed before notaries in Irak and confirmed by the Ministry of Justice will be accepted in the Palestine Courts, while documents signed before notaries in Palestine and confirmed by the Registrar-General to the Palestine Government will be accepted by the Courts in Irak.

Municipal Activity.

There are unmistakable signs of municipal activity among the larger municipalities in the country. Baghdad municipality has called for tenders for the completion of the city's water supply, and Mosul municipality has asked for tenders for the supply of electric light and power. At the same time a serious attempt is being made to improve the roads in Baghdad.

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ALBANIA.

Tirana, June 27.

Parliament.

Although the third Parliamentary session should, in accordance with the Constitution, have ended on May 30, it was prolonged owing to the necessity of approving the 1923 Budget. The Budget debates lasted until June 16, and on the following day the balanced Budget was voted, with some slight modifications made by different Parliamentary committees.

In this session Parliament determined the period of its existence. According to the Constitution, the deputies are elected for four years, but this was not to be applied to the present Parliament. By the recent decision Parliament is continuing its existence until September 30, and then new elections will take place. It is, unless unforeseen exigencies compel the High Council to call an extraordinary session, to assemble on September 15.

The Concessions.

The question of the concessions has not yet been solved, and the two most important, dealing with oil and State land respectively, have not yet been granted. It is possible that an extraordinary session will be held to settle these matters.

The zealous efforts being made by the representatives of different oil companies now in Tirana to get the concession signed as soon as possible strengthen the hope of the Albanian Government that there is a great quantity of oil to be found in this virgin land, which should revive the State economically, and that most probably explains why the Government is in no hurry to grant the concession. But it should not be forgotten that there is a political aspect to this question.

In regard to the State land concession, the Government was ready to submit it to Parliament as soon as Signor Fabiani, the representative of the Adriatico Co., should be ready to sign it. But when on the point of signing it Signor Fabiani proposed some new modifications, and the Government, having, therefore, to consider them thoroughly, could not present the contract to Parliament.

Land for Refugees

One of the most important laws which were passed in this session was the one dealing with the grant of State lands to the refugees who are for the present in Albania, and to those who will come later. After the Armistice large numbers of Kossovo and Cameria Albanians, who suffered such treatment from the Serbian and Greek authorities as to make life impossible for them, were forced to immigrate into Turkey. This law has been passed to assure land and abode to these refugees. As a consequence, the population of political Albania, which, owing to the inroads of various invaders, has been reduced to about 850,000, will be increased. Further, with a view to ameliorating the lot of the tenants, this law provides for pieces of land belonging to the State to be given to them.

The Minorities.

The position of tenants tilling lands owned by private individuals is also assured by a law, which has just been passed by Parliament, stating that no owner of land has the right to dismiss his tenant if the latter continues to fulfil all the obligations which he undertook in the contract entered into between the landowner and himself. The passing of this law was chiefly owing to the complaints of the Greek tenants of Argyrocastro against their landowners; and it shows, therefore, very clearly the sincerity of the Albanian Government in trying to accommodate the minorities under its rule—even to such an extent as is not required by the conventional declaration which the League of Nations forced upon Albania, and which practically creates an *imperium in imperio*.

While Albania is taking the most liberal steps to improve the position of her insignificant Greek minorities, it is disappointing to see the Greek Government taking the most rigid expropriatory measures in similar cases. Albanians in Greece can neither sell nor rent their land, because the expropriation law in force, which is in reality a law of confiscation, takes away the land from the Albanians at one-fifteenth of the real price, and this to be paid in thirty years! This is an illuminating comparison of the methods of the two Governments —the Albanian and the Greek—in dealing with their minorities.

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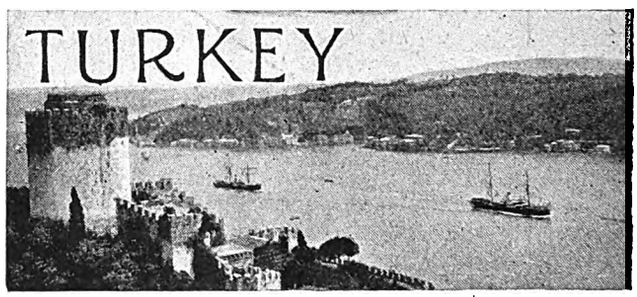

Constantinople, July 17.

The Elusive Peace.

The burst of enthusiasm which greeted the announcement that all difficulties had been resolved at Lausanne has been steadily evaporating throughout the week. Various restaurants had advertised "peace" dances; the Evkaf was credited with having given instructions for the illumination of mosques, and various other celebrations were being prepared; but gradually the news began to filter through that the all-powerful Angora had refused to associate itself with the feeling of its representatives in Lausanne, and intended to go on haggling to the bitter end. That delicate barometer of the political atmosphere, the rate of exchange, refused to confirm the optimistic press reports of Monday and Tuesday last, and the past week has seen a gentle but progressive weakening of Turkish currency.

Naturally, we are all asking ourselves what line the "Great Powers" will adopt towards this last *intransigeance* of Mustapha Kemal and his followers, and in our heart of hearts we know perfectly well that they will give way again. At any rate, they will give away the substance even if they succeed in retaining the shadow. After all, if the Powers have consciously decided that the new Turkey shall be left to the tender mercies of the laws of economics, there is no reason why they should hold out on the points of detail such as the Armstrong-Vickers and Régie Générale concessions and the order of the going of the Allied naval forces in the Orient. If they are worried about the safety of their nationals on Turkish territory and are trying to make a belated *amende honorable* for the wholesale abolition of any sort of guaran-

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tees against Turkish justice and victimisation, it may be suggested that they are wasting their time. The history of Allied efforts, under conditions of Allied military occupation during the past eight months, at getting redress for unprovoked assault against Allied persons and interests does not inspire any confidence in the capacity of a few units of the Allied fleets to do what the Allied armies have failed to achieve.

The Recognition of Angora.

The preceding argument assumes what—to its perspicacity be it attributed—the British Government was the last of the Allied Governments to assume—namely, that the Angora Oligarchy is the rightful and permanent heir in direct succession to the Imperial Ottoman Government. Your correspondent would humbly suggest that a comparatively short space of time will serve to prove that the present self-nominated Angora Government is counting on British recognition to support its claim; also that the withdrawal of the tacit recognition by the British Government of the justice of the claim of Mustapha Kemal that they rule Turkey *de jure* would be a fatal blow to the incompetent *parvenus* who have grasped the nettle of executive power in Turkey.

The moral is obvious, and need not be underlined.

The Treatment of Constantinople.

The question of the status and treatment of Constantinople is still very much to the fore, and the Press has been canvassing the deputies and other prominent personages on the question of the application of the dry régime and the possibility of the return of the Government to the predestined capital of the country. The *Aurora* believes that the consensus of opinion of the newly elected deputies for Constantinople inclines to the theory that the strict application of the dry régime here would be an error in tactics, and would deprive the Government of much-needed revenue; and it believes that the fateful August 1 will see a postponement *sine die* of the application of the measure to Constantinople and Smyrna in the interests of the Treasury's revenue. If this expression of opinion has any repercussion in Angora circles generally, it will be welcomed as a glimmering of common sense in a world of bigotry.

Much ink is being expended in the Press on the question of the return of the Government to Constantinople. The *Stamboul* reproduces certain declarations said to have been made to the *Tanin* by Fethi Bey, Minister of the Interior, which for pure futility are difficult to equal. This politician affects to believe that the inestimable benefits which will accrue to an Angora-run Turkey will rain like manna upon a Turkified Constantinople, which will maintain and increase its value as a great entrepôt for transit trade, all of which will be in Turkish hands, to the exclusion of the foreign and non-Turkish element. To anyone with the slightest practical knowledge of Turkish commercial methods, Turkish employees, and so on, the idea is simply ludicrous. People like Fethi Bey are inebriated by the Chester Concession, and strong in their faith that Americans rush in where Europeans fear to tread, they are stupidly flouting every other source of possible help. What an unpleasant surprise they are going to get when they find that the American concessionnaire is not so gullible as he appears, and that he will willingly sacrifice a few thousand dollars as the price of cutting loose until times are more propitious, happy in the possession of the expert information as to the resources of the country which those same few thousands of dollars have cost him in prospecting. However, they will have to learn their lesson by bitter experience.

The Elections.

The Turkish elections are officially proceeding, but various parts of Anatolia are showing great restiveness under the system of pressure which is being applied in order to secure the election of Government deputies to the exclusion of all others. The population of Angora itself raised its voice, and demanded that it should have a say in the choice of the candidates who were to request their suffrages. Adana appears to have placed its faith in deeds rather than in words, and to have organised a general assault upon the ballot boxes by an enraged body of citizens. The Eastern vilayets, and especially Samsoun and Trebizond, appear to be staging a mild revolution, which necessitates vigorous methods of military repression. These methods do not appear to have been very successful, for reports are filtering through which suggest that the troops are demoralised and are in many cases making common cause with the population. Considerable colour is lent to such reports by the impenetrable silence of official sources and of the Press on the subject. Whatever happens, it seems to be generally agreed that the new Assembly cannot meet until early in August, and inspired statements fix the opening session for August 2. We will wait and see.

General News.

Local affairs in Constantinople are not particularly interesting. The Patriarch has at last left on the Khedivial mail boat, leaving the governance of the Church in the hands of the Patriarchal Synod, under the presidency of Archbishop Nikolaus of Caesarea, the late *locum tenens*, who has declared himself in favour of an exchange of views with the Government, with the object of regulating the basis of relations between Church and State on those obtaining in England, France, and so on. A delegation is said to be proceeding to Angora for this purpose in the near future.

Reasonable protests are being raised against suggestions that any sweeping rules shall be made for the observance of Friday as a day of rest, for, as it is pointed out, business is already suspended on Fridays and Sundays, and, to be absolutely consistent in a city with such a mixed population, everything should be shut up on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. A certain latitude is obviously necessary.

The police are justifying their existence by discovering a widespread network of incendiaries—of Armenian race—who are said to be responsible, in collusion with certain employees of insurance companies, for many of the fires which have taken place during the past two years.

PERSIA.

Teheran, June 11.

The Cabinet.

Mustaufi el Mumalik's Cabinet would appear to be on its last legs. Some days ago the majority in Parliament turned against him, and a vote of lack of confidence in the Government was passed by 44 votes to 39. The Opposition thereupon clamoured for his resignation, while the Premier's supporters endeavoured to postpone it for the time being in view of the approaching dissolution of the present Mejliss, whose term of office expires on 22nd instant. A deadlock ensued, during which time the Mejliss has held no public sessions, as one or the other part always leaves the House and prevents the presence of a quorum. A few days ago the President of the Parliament, Motamen ul

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Mulk, had an audience of the Shah, at which he referred the question to His Majesty, who expressed his opinion that the resignation of Mustaufi el Mumalik at the present juncture was undesirable, in view of the impending dissolution of Parliament during the next few days, for should Mustaufi resign and difficulty be experienced in forming a new Cabinet there would be the danger of the country remaining without either a Mejliss or Government. This was reported to the Opposition, who seemed to acquiesce, but apparently the crisis is not yet over, for it is understood the Parliament has summoned the Prime Minister and his Cabinet to appear at the Mejliss to explain matters, which is equivalent to an impeachment. Should this result in a vote of non-confidence Mustaufi will, of course, have no alternative but to resign, but the majority may be willing to fall in with the Shah's wishes, and in this case the Ministry will remain in power, for the time being at least.

The Elections.

The elections for the new Mejliss have been proceeding throughout the country during the past two weeks, and although voting has finished in Teheran the scrutiny of the votes has not yet been completed, and the final result is not known. Up to the present Motamen ul Mulk, President of the Parliament, heads the list, followed by Mushir ed Dowleh, Soleiman Mirza, leader of the Democrats, and the present Prime Minister, Mustaufi el Mumalik. Mirza Hussein Khan Alai, Minister at Washington, who has much to do with the engagement of the American advisers, is so far among the twelve representatives, as is also Seyed Zia ed Din, the proprietor of the newspaper *Raad*, who brought about the short-lived *coup d'état* of February, 1921, and who since his flight after three months' Premiership has been travelling in Europe.

The Earthquake.

A violent earthquake, the worst experienced in this country for very many years, caused tremendous damage to property and exacted a heavy toll of lives at Turbat-i-Haidari, south of Meshed, and the neighbouring villages on May 26. A great number of shocks, which continued for several days, were felt, and the majority of the houses in Turbat are said to have been damaged, and fifty inhabitants were killed. It is almost impossible in this country to obtain accurate statistics; but reliable information estimates the death-roll among the neighbouring villages, of which several were completely destroyed, at well over 2,000. Relief was immediately sent from Meshed, and the Commander of the Eastern Army himself repaired at once to the afflicted district with a party of troops to render assistance and organise relief measures. A public subscription has been started, and the Shah is to-day calling together a meeting of priests and notables to consider the best steps to be taken to relieve the distressed population.

Military Training in France.

Last Sunday a party of forty officer students left Teheran for France, where they will undergo a course of military training at the College of St. Cyr, studying modern warfare in all its phases. They were accompanied by General Amanullah Mirza, the Chief of the Staff, and four other senior officers, who will also study military matters in Europe before returning. The party is, of course, being sent at the Government's expense, at the suggestion of the Minister of War, who thus furnishes another proof of his desire for the advancement of the Persian Army, which he has been instrumental in forming on modern lines, and his anxiety to profit by the experience of the French Army in the War shows his broad-mindedness.

The King's Birthday.

The King's Birthday falling on Sunday this year, the annual reception at the British Legation was held last Saturday, June 2. Of late years it has been the practice to hold the reception after dinner in the cool of the evening in the delightful gardens of the Legation in town; and this year, in spite of a strong wind and heavy showers both before 10 o'clock and after midnight, the Clerk of the Weather proved kind, and a very large number of guests, including all members of the Diplomatic Corps, Persian Ministers of State and notables, and the majority of the European colony, partook of Sir Percy Loraine's hospitality.

The Weather.

Most of the Legations and those whose work permits them to do so, have moved up country to escape the heat and dust of town during the summer months, in the cool villages on the lower slopes of the Elburz Mountains, seven or eight miles from the capital. The weather, however, has been remarkable, and such a cool spring has seldom been experienced. Rain has fallen frequently the last few weeks, and up country heavy downpours have recently been the order of the day—a most unusual thing for the time of year. In fact, the vagaries of the weather throughout the country of late have been the cause of much comment, and have caused serious damage, as witness the recent floods in Kerman due to an abnormal rainfall; similar floods resulting in the river Helmund at Seistan (Nasratabad) overflowing its banks, and causing immense damage to crops and property, and, lastly, the disastrous earthquake in Khorassan, which, although an acknowledged centre of seismic disturbance, has seldom experienced such a devastating series of shocks.

BULGARIA AND THE ÆGEAN.

At the last Plenary Session of the Lausanne Conference, at the Château d'Ouchy, on July 17, M. D. Stancioff (Bulgarian Minister in London), Delegate for Bulgaria, following the speeches of the other delegates, addressed the Assembly as follows: "Your Excellencies have met at Lausanne with the view of settling the problems of the Near East. Bulgaria was invited to this Conference, as being a country bordering the Black Sea, to partake in the establishment of the régime of the Straits and, also, for the purpose of securing the Bulgarian Outlet to the Ægean Sea. The Bulgarian Delegation has had the opportunity of stating before the Conference the views of Bulgaria on this subject, and of expressing her gratitude to the competent Commission for the interest granted to a question of such vital importance to Bulgaria.

"As, however, it has not been possible for this High Assembly to come to a decision on this particular point, I beg to be allowed to express the hope that with the benevolent help of all the Powers represented at this Conference, we Bulgarians may look forward in the immediate future to an agreement which will at last finally settle the problem—left without solution—of Bulgaria's free access to the Ægean Sea.

"The memorable sitting of to-day sanctions the guarantees indispensable to the pacific expansion of nations, and I venture to express the wish that the advantages and benefits deriving from complete security be enjoyed, without exception, by all countries of the Near East that have had to endure so many heavy trials and hardships. It is in this sense that the Bulgarian Delegation shares the general satisfaction felt at the happy result of the labours of this Conference."

This statement was very well received by all the Delegations present.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

July 26 (New Style).
July 13 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 11, 1341 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 12, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

His Majesty received the Maharaja of Kapurthala at Buckingham Palace last Thursday.

Major Sir Herbert Dering, Bt., British Minister to Roumania, has arrived at Claridge's Hotel from Bucharest.

It is stated that Colonel Leslie Wilson will succeed Sir George Lloyd as Governor of Bombay during the autumn.

Mr. G. S. Symes, Governor of the Northern District, has left Palestine for England, where he will spend his summer leave.

Princess Antoine Bibesco, wife of the Roumanian Minister to the United States, is a passenger in the Olympic from New York.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, the wife of the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, has left London for Semmering, Austria.

Lord Allenby, the High Commissioner, left Egypt for England last Friday, and is expected to return at the beginning of November.

The Hon. William Erskine, His Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Sofia, had an audience of the King on July 19.

Colonel Douglas Capitaneanu, former Roumanian Military Attaché in London, has returned to England and is staying at the Roumanian Legation.

Mme. Mehros-Saltaneh, the wife of the Persian Minister, who recently arrived from Teheran, left town last Thursday for a tour on the South Coast.

M. Yovanovitch, Consul-General of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Yovanovitch returned to London on July 17 from Belgrade.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Herbert Samuel, High Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief, Palestine, had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace on July 18.

M. Constantin Fotitch, First Secretary to the Legation of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on July 19, with Mme. Fotitch, for the Isle of Wight.

Mr. Kustandi Lubbat, at present Sub-Governor of Hebron, has been appointed Governor of Beersheba in place of Mr. W. Cartwright, whose term of office has expired.

The Eed-ul-Azha celebration took place yesterday at the Mosque, 63, Melrose Road, Southfields, S.W.18. Besides the service and sermon, a special lecture was given by Mr. M. B. Janjua on "Islam —The Cure of Europe's Ills."

The King received a deputation from the Royal Asiatic Society on July 19 as follows: The Lord Chalmers (president), M. Senart, Professor Stem Konow, Professor Williams Jackson, Professor Breasted, and Mr. Perowne and Dr. F. W. Thomas (hon. treasurer and hon. secretary).

Under the auspices of the Near and Middle East Association a general meeting is being held tonight (Thursday), at 8.30 p.m., at 64, Queen's Gate, S.W.7, by kind permission of the Dowager Lady Boyle. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside, and the speakers will include Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., on "The Outlook in Bulgaria"; Lieut.-Col. the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., on "Great Britain and Turkey"; Mr. Charles L. Woods, on "The Situation in the Balkans"; and Mr. C. Frank Whittall.

The King has been pleased to make the following appointments in the Consular Service:—

Mr. Francis Edward Crow, C.M.G., Consul-General at Ispahan, to be Consul-General for Macedonia and the Xanthi district of Thrace.

Mr. Ernest Bristow, Consul at Tabriz, to be Consul-General for the Governorships of Ispahan, Yezd, Gulpaïgan and Konsar, the Province of Irak, and the districts of Chehkarmahal, Feridan, and Bakhtiari.

Mr. Reader William Bullard, C.I.E., former Military Governor of Baghdad, to be Agent and Consul at Jeddah.

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THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1923.

THE CLEAN SLATE IN THE EAST.

While this issue of THE NEAR EAST goes to press, the Treaty of Peace between the Allied Powers and Turkey is to be signed in the Hall of the Lausanne University. The circumstances of this long-drawn agony—the abortive Treaty of Sèvres, the Anatolian campaign, and the protracted negotiations at Lausanne—preclude any enthusiasm over the event—at least, in Great Britain. Nevertheless, there are sound reasons why the relief which will necessarily be felt at the prospect of a settlement at last in the Near East should be accompanied by genuine satisfaction. We are apt to think only of Turkey defeated in the Great War, rejecting the conditions of peace offered her, and finally, in effect, laying down the terms on which she will consent to be at peace with the Allies; and the recital leaves a feeling of humiliation. There is, however, another aspect of the matter. If ever wrongdoing brings retribution in its train, the Allies' handling of the Turkish question has supplied a classic instance. With the world still echoing with their unctuous phrases of the rights of nations, the Supreme Council deliberately commissioned Greece, who had not been in conflict with the Turks in the Great War, to take advantage of Turkey's exhaustion in order to settle her own quarrel over Asia Minor. The end in view may have been most worthy; but the method employed by the Allies was not justified. By their action they stepped down from their Western pedestal and placed themselves in the sphere of morality on a level with Turkey. The injustice galvanised the Turks to life again, and though they are inclined to attribute the striking reversal of their fortunes to their own strong arm, the Allies, on their part, can hardly fail to be conscious that it was on account of having sacrificed their moral superiority, as well as their will to war, that they found themselves at a disadvantage in the council chamber at Lausanne. The terms of peace, however grudgingly given, have not only righted the wrong, but should also have rehabilitated the Allies in their own self-respect. The old political relations with Turkey have gone; but, as far as moral values are concerned, the Allies are once more back on their own plane, and the future will show whether the Turks are able to join them there or will be content with their former inferior standard.

It would be false to the spirit of the Treaty to grudge Turkey her elation over the victory of peace, which she claims rests with her, or to seek to qualify the international equality which the Lausanne Conference implied. The Allies, it is true, would be stultifying themselves if they did not have their misgivings as to the future; but they must make up their minds that no action on their part shall restrict the opportunity of the Turks to make good. Turkey's viciousness in the past has been materially assisted by, even if it was not largely or in part due to, the intrigues of the Western Powers in Constantinople. Allied unity has been displayed to better effect at Lausanne than in any other part of the world, and although it may, even there, not have been much to boast about, it was at least proof against the endeavours of the Turks to sow discord. If that unity can be maintained, to the extent required for the elimination of active intrigue on the part of any one Power against another, Turkey will be thrown more upon her own resources. Instead of adopting a purely negative attitude, relying upon the Powers of themselves to counteract their own plans for the betterment of the Near East, the Turks will discover the need for a constructive policy. They protest that up to the present they have never had a chance of showing what they can do. Now that they are left entirely to their own resources, it is to the Allies' interests to give them all the encouragement and help that they require. If with this assistance Turkey wins through to a satisfactory position in the comity of nations, the Allies will benefit; if, in spite of this assistance, she fails from an inherent lack of capacity, the Allies' task in the end will be the easier, for the Turks will then be unable to plead that they have been handicapped either by the indifference or by the active opposition of Europe.

For the Turks the slate is cleaner than, perhaps, they realise at the moment. They are rid of the disintegrating influences that sapped the Ottoman Empire, for in Anatolia they have achieved national homogeneity. European intrigue is unlikely to trouble them, unless they go out of their way to encourage it. Their main stumbling-block will be the hatred of the foreigner, which has given to their country the solidarity and motive power necessary for military victory, but which, for success in peace time, must give place to real appreciation of what the foreigner has achieved, and determination to benefit from his knowledge and experience. If they imagine themselves as superior to the foreigner and all his ways in the cult of material progress, as they proved to be on the field of battle against a dispirited Greek army, they will inevitably compass their own undoing. If they were capable of studying the pages of history, they would discover that they could learn much from the lesson of the Far East. Sixty years ago the Japanese had raised hatred of the foreigner to a national fetish. Only when it had led to defeat and threatened disaster did they abandon it. At once the old traditions of rigid seclusion were replaced by an amazing keenness to learn all that the West had to teach. Western advisers were obtained for every department of public life, and the whole nation went to school, with the result that within forty years Japan stood on her own feet, a First-class Power, commanding the respect of the whole world. Separated from her by a narrow sea was a country which preferred to cling, in spite of every warning, to its old policy of seclusion, and which sought to maintain before the world its conviction that misgovernment within its borders was its own affair, and of no concern to others. To-day Turkey is at the parting of the ways, the one leading along the road which Japan has followed to some purpose, the other offering her the fate of Korea. Which will she choose? The decision rests with the Turks; but, whatever the issue, Great Britain's conscience will be clear only if she contrives to do all within her power to lend a helping hand. Turkey at first may elect to make no use of it; but it should be available notwithstanding. If an attempt is made to impose upon Angora the dignity of a capital, a British representative should be in residence there, and he should be a man to whom both official and unofficial Turkey can always turn for sympathy and advice.

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EXCAVATIONS AT CARTHAGE.

By DR. L. CARTON.

The visitor to Carthage generally expects to find, as at so many other celebrated ruins, temples and porticos still standing. Charmed at first by the incomparable beauty of the site, with the blue waters of the Gulf lapping the foot of the Mountain of the Two Horns—Bou Kornine—he is disappointed when, on turning his gaze to his immediate surroundings, he looks in vain on the sacred soil of Ancient Carthage for the remains of the famous city. The reason is that these, just as if the curse of old Cato still brooded on the unhappy relics, have never ceased throughout the ages to be the object of the worst ravages. Here for a space three kilometres long the ancient monuments, hidden away at the bottom of the holes where they have been discovered, with the approaches not yet cleared, are invisible from any distance. Robbed of their mosaics, their statues and their columns, which have been taken away to museums, they have been too often abandoned and turned into quarries. The marvel of it all is that after so many depredations the soil still yields up each day its wonderful riches. If the visitor, warned by what he has read or by a well-informed guide, comes across monuments thus hidden, he realises with an indescribable emotion that, although there may be no temples still standing, these remains have none the less a powerful attraction, not only owing to the grandeur of the memories that they evoke, to the majesty of the site which serves them as a frame, but also by their state of preservation, the originality of their arrangement, the sumptuousness of their decoration, and the documentary importance of the débris. For—and this is a point to remember—it is not only the classical monuments of the Roman cities that one can see at Carthage, but also a number of edifices rendered notable by the legends attaching to them or by the originality of their construction. Such—among the chief—are the Amphitheatre where Perpetua was martyred, and the Theatre where Apuleius, amid the enthusiastic applause of the spectators, delivered his oration, and where, later, the celebrated writer, Louis Bertrand, commemorated in eloquent terms the centenary of Gustave Flaubert. Such, too, the Basilica which witnessed the "Tears of Ste. Monica." And, in the second category, the curious subterranean rotunda, the charming fountain of a thousand amphoræ, the so-called Baths of Dido and Prison of Perpetua.

Over and above all these remains, relatively recent, must be mentioned those of the great city of Hamilcar, which was believed to have been lost for ever, because up to that time the excavations undertaken to discover them had not been either numerous or deep enough, and which has just been found bit by bit at different points, after I had recommended a different line of search. It was impossible that the soldiers of Scipio should have been able, in a few months, to destroy the lower parts of the buildings under the three or four yards of rubbish from the upper storeys that covered them.

Punic Carthage was, without doubt, mainly destroyed later by those who, in order to rebuild the Roman town, looked for their materials, as do the modern vandals, in the depths of the ground. One can realise how this destruction, carried out without method, has left unscathed portions of the first city which are now beginning to be found under the remains of Roman Carthage.

It is thus that the site which at the first approach seems almost entirely bare of ruins produces no less than seventy in all, well preserved in whole or in part, and in every respect admirable.

Here I will refer only to the principal ruins: The Theatre, whose echoes were first re-awakened by great artists at my instigation in 1907, in an unforgettable performance, and where more than thirty magnificent statues were found, which have been removed to the Museum; the Odeon; the Temple of Memory, with its mysterious plan; the street lined with luxurious dwellings, ornamented with magnificent mosaics which have been extracted from the soil; the unidentified temple near the Cathedral; the line of fine decorated shrines known as the Palace of the Proconsul; a subterranean chapel adorned with a fresco representing St. Cyprian, and which the damp is eating away day by day; the great wall of Byrsa, on the top of which a hotel has been built; the circus not yet excavated: the enormous cisterns of the Malga and those of Bord Djedid, restored and full of water; the enormous masses of unexplored vaults of the Baths of Antoninus, where columns and mosaics crop out; three magnificent Christian Basilicas, with columns and mosaics; the great Punic tombs of the VIIth Century B.C.; the Ceramicos or the quarter of Carthaginian potters, with its ovens; the enormous wall, or maritime enclosure, with the remains of fortresses; the ancient harbours, with the round island containing a large ruin.

The soil of Carthage has not yet been exhausted. It still contains monuments infinitely precious. No other proof of this is needed than the magnificent discoveries made in recent years, of which I will mention a few.

First of all there was the great Basilica of St. Cyprian. Père Delattre, who discovered it, has set up the forest of mutilated columns over the deep ravines and the gulf of blue waters. Here hundreds of inscriptions have revealed the names of the early Christians. Then there is the poetic fountain of a thousand amphoræ, the exploration of which has enabled me to bring to light the only spring known to Carthage, a series of reservoirs, vaults, and galleries, forty metres long, in an admirable state of preservation, which receives the water as it falls into a chamber excavated out of the rock at the edge of the seashore. Authors are of opinion, with some reason, that it is here, near a spring of water, that the first Phœnician settlement was established, and that the legendary Dido disembarked.

Was not one of the most impressive discoveries that recently made by an Arab stone-breaker, under the eyes of those modest and zealous devotees of science MM. Gielly and Icard, the vast sanctuary of Tanit? The fervour of the worshippers of the great goddess had collected there in six layers, one on top of the other, monuments in the form of pre-Carthaginian dolmens, then altars of early Egyptian character, then Punic stelæ, on which is repeated thousands of times the invocation: "To Tanit, face of Baal, because he has heard her voice." At the foot of the votive stones were hundreds of urns containing the bones of newly born children offered in sacrifice. Alas! these precious archives of the Carthaginian cult have just been extracted from the earth, to which the worshippers of Tanit had consigned them centuries and centuries before, some abandoned to all kinds of damage at the bottom of a hole heaped up with rubbish everyday, others exhibited, laid out in straight lines on the shelves of the Museum for which this sacrilege had been committed.

Happily there is reason to hope that this sanctuary still extends under the villas that have been allowed to be built upon it, although no borings have actually been made as far as the virgin soil,

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and that one day, when at last the necessity of preserving the remains where they are is appreciated, the stelae will be cleared with feelings of piety.

The possibility of the existence of Punic traces, as I have declared for several years, has been proved by the wreck of the whole of this Carthaginian part, across which a trench was made for the construction of a road, bringing to light an enormous mass of débris of terra cotta statues. The pitiless roller levelled the whole, preventing exploration. Only several years later was I able, by means of a tunnel passing under the road, in which I crawled at full length under the electric wires, to establish the existence of a Punic structure with a Punic altar and two Punic mosaics, where I collected an enormous quantity of débris, and these, patiently reconstructed, have furnished me with Carthaginian statues, surmounted with a high tiara, the hair bound with bands of gold; busts of priestesses offering incense still posed on the altar where the pious hands of the priests had placed them; an admirable head of Baal-Hammon, many-coloured, wearing a crown of feathers; two warriors, a Gorgon's head—a masterpiece—a gigantic grinning mask placed at the entrance to the monument, effigies of serpents, horses and lions; delicious statuettes recalling the very best Tanagra; small delicate figures in ivory, etc. This monument, which it has not been possible yet to explore in its entirety, lies actually under the track furrowed by vehicles.

I have written enough to show what a splendid series of monuments is to be met with in the soil of Carthage, and what an abundant harvest it still promises to those who explore it.

A group of Americans who, under the guidance of M. le Comte Byron-Kuhn de Prorok, came to visit Carthage two years ago, and approached me through M. L. Bertrand, the celebrated author of "Villes d'Or," were enamoured with the grandeur of the ruin and its sufferings; they rented an ancient monument which someone had converted into a house by making windows in the arches, inserting a chimney, and so on. On this spot, where inadequate digging had led to the belief that there was nothing, and that building could be allowed, the Americans found a large Roman villa with walls three metres high, with several fine mosaics intact, representing a variety of subjects; a wild boar hunt; fish, fowls, fruits, etc. It is to be hoped that this time these things will be preserved where they have been found.

These fortunate discoveries enabled the Americans to give a series of illustrated lectures in the United States, and the University of Harvard, at their instigation, is in treaty at this moment with the Government of Tunis for carrying out excavations over a large area, beginning next November. They will direct their attention in all probability to the region where the Baths of Gargilius are hypothetically located, not far from the Theatre.

It may not be without interest to readers of THE NEAR EAST to know that among the hundreds of people who this year have visited the ruins of Carthage, a number of Englishmen have formed the project of returning to Carthage to obtain authority to excavate. I am the happier to be able to announce this, because up to the present our neighbours and Allies have not taken any special interest in the great ruins.

Another excavation area will shortly be marked out at Carthage by Le Comité des Dames Amies de Carthage, under my direction, in a ruin which so far has not been explored. This society has been formed by a group of generous ladies who have been moved by a great "compassion" for the ruins. Visitors to Carthage join the committee enthusiastically in great numbers. After being only three years in existence, it comprises a thousand members, and has important branches at Tunis, Paris, Algiers, Bordeaux, and Constantine, as well as in Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, etc. So far there is no branch in England where the committee would much like to have one, as Carthage now begins to have its friends there. Under the high patronage of Mme. Lucien Saint, wife of the Resident-General, and having as "Membres d'Honneur" the Duchess of Vendôme, the Beya of Tunis, Mme. Destrees, wife of the Belgian Minister of Public Instruction, etc.; it publishes a bulletin on Carthage, which keeps the members in touch with all that happens there. By way of a start, it has facilitated inspection of the site by placing at the station a large plan of the ruins, by opening an Information Bureau, by placing signposts and plans in the monuments, and in giving a subsidy to Père Delattre. As the most pressing need was to prevent the invasion of the ruins by buildings, which are rising in every direction, and their destruction by contractors, the C.D.A.C., under the presidency of Mme. Carton, made a special effort in appealing to the public, with the result that the Press of the world is now at one in demanding the preservation of Carthage. The committee wanted to restore, at its own cost, certain columns and to strengthen and enclose some of the ruins, but, for reasons of an administrative character, the necessary authority has not yet been accorded it.

Preparations are being made for grand theatrical performances this winter in Paris, and in the spring at the ancient Theatre of Carthage, and, in order to cope with this splendid development of the work, an office is about to be opened in Paris under the direction of my colleague, M. Jaubert de Benac, a talented writer devoted to the cause of Carthage. Time presses. Nearly a hundred buildings have been erected within a year at Carthage. If within the next few months the indispensable measures are not taken, it will be too late.

EDUCATION IN CYPRUS.

We have received from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol the following telegram:—"A strong protest on the part of the Holy Synod, accompanied by a long memorandum, was submitted yesterday to the Colonial Secretary against the interference by the Government in the matter of Education. All the Metropolitans have resigned their presidentships. Out of six towns three committees undertook their duties under protest and issued resolutions against the plans of the Government. The other three still abstain from the performance of their duties. The Press strongly criticises the authorities, and expresses the hope that the Government will no longer deny justice to the Cypriots, who, with the rest of the Greek nation, made great sacrifices for a common cause in the Great War. People here hope for the support of the English Press."

THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

In connection with the centenary of the Royal Asiatic Society, sectional meetings were held on July 18 at 74, Grosvenor Street. On the following day sectional meetings were again held, some of the society's delegates were received by the King at Buckingham Palace, and in the evening the society was represented at the meeting of the India Society at 21, Cromwell Road, when speeches were made by Sir C. Hercules Read and M. Emile Senart. The centenary celebrations were concluded on July 20, when foreign and oversea members were conducted on a tour through the British Museum. In the evening a banquet was given at the Hotel Cecil under the chairmanship of Lord Chalmers, and was attended by nearly 200 guests.

The Queen of Roumania has left Bucharest for a month's stay at Sovata, the well-known spa in Transylvania, where her Majesty will take the waters.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE DEFENCE OF INDIA.

"THE DEFENCE OF INDIA." By Arthur Vincent. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

The author of this book, writing under the name of "Arthur Vincent," has dedicated it, by permission, to General Sir M. Jacob, Chief of the General Staff in India. It contains a large amount of valuable material compressed into ninety-five pages of closely printed matter, and is one of the "India of To-day" series. The book is divided into three parts—viz., Part I.: Maritime Defence and the Northern and North-Eastern Frontiers and Burma; Part II.: The North-West Frontier; and Part III.: Future Days.

The chapter on maritime defence tells us how the centre of possible naval activity lies no longer in the European seas, but is to be found in the East and the Pacific; how the key to the strategical defence of India is to the eastward—*e.g.*, in the closing of the barrier of Singapore by fleets which can be based upon that harbour; how India's naval needs are three in number, in order of importance as follows:—(1) Protection of sea communications, (2) protection of her ports and coasts, (3) provision of naval bases, dockyards, fuel reserves, and so on. The author then proceeds to develop the subject of India's responsibility for her own naval defence. Next follows a chapter dealing with the Northern, North-Eastern, and Burma frontiers. Little need be said (as regards the defence problem) of the first, as it is "one vast wall of high mountains, including Mount Everest," and is "the greatest natural barrier in the world." The second—the North-Eastern Frontier—has not attracted hitherto so much attention as that on the north-west, but the former might become of the very greatest importance any day should Chinese policy again become active. China, with her vast and ever-increasing population, must find an outlet somewhere, and the tendency has been so far for her to expand towards west and south—*i.e.*, on the side of India and Tibet. In connection with this possible danger the author draws attention to the strategical advantages of the Hukong valley route for a railway from Assam to Burma, a subject of the highest importance which, but for the Great War, would probably by this time have been prominently before us.

Part II. follows, dealing with the North-West Frontier. An interesting chapter on the birth and growth of the present frontier is given, in which it is shown sufficiently clearly that the protection of the present frontier has been undertaken solely with a view to counteracting aggression from the west and in defence of "a united India." There are also references to the "Durand" line and to "the buffer State policy." Brief notices are given of the three Afghan wars, and of the danger threatening India from Soviet Russia. Chapter IV. gives an interesting brief account of the border countries, the author remarking very truly that the allegiance of some of the frontier tribes is based on two factors alone: first, the extent to which a peaceful and orderly existence has suited their own purposes for the time being; and, secondly, the strength of the Army of India. The second consideration was uppermost probably in the mind of the author whilst writing this account, in view of the policy of reduction of the Indian Army and of hastening the "Indianisation" of the military services. The moral of the chapter is that it would be most imprudent to reduce the Army below a certain safety limit. The author tells us there are now over 140,000 breech-loading rifles in the hands of some of the most important frontier tribesmen; this is a fact which should be borne in mind by those who are so ready to attack the Army estimates. Chapter V. gives a short description of frontier policy, a matter for frontier experts which may be left to them, including the suggestion of a permanent advance of British control up to the "Durand" line. Chapter VI. treats of the frontier army, and contains, incidentally, some account of that fine body of men "the Punjab Frontier Force." We are again reminded of the Russian menace in Chapter VII., and Lenin's words at the Third International at Moscow are recalled—*e.g.*, "England is our greatest enemy in the world. British Imperialism is a pest which spreads everywhere. Our task is to root out the British Imperialistic spirit in Turkey, in Persia, and in Asia generally. In India we must strike them hardest. The road to London is through Kabul and India."

The book ends with "a look to the future," which chapter, and, indeed, the whole of this interesting and highly informing book, may be recommended specially to Indian legislators and to those others also who wish to form some idea of the duties and responsibilities of India as regards defence at the present time. Should another edition be published, it is suggested that a better map of the North-West Frontier be supplied, also a map of the North-Eastern and Burma frontiers. The book has been well-printed and is moderately priced; it should command a wide circle of readers, in addition to those classes mentioned above.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Semitic Religions: Hebrew, Jewish, Christian, Moslem." The 22nd Series of Croall Lectures. By David M. Kay, D.S.O., D.D. (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Desert Justice." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Tales of Nasr-ed-Din Khoja." Translated from the Turkish text by Henry D. Barnham. With a foreword by Sir Valentine Chirol. Illustrated. (London: Nisbet and Co 7s. 6d. net.)

The Companion Shakespeare. "Twelfth Night"; "The Tempest." (London: Christophers. 2s. net each.)

"The Amber Girl.' By Clarice Mayne and Thurston Hopkins. (London: Cecil Palmer. 3s. 6d. net.)

"India of To-day" Series. No. III., "Irrigation in India." By D. G. Harris. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. net.)

"The Lay of Alha: A Saga of Rajput Chivalry, as sung by Minstrels of Northern India." Partly translated in English ballad metre by the late William Waterfield. With an introduction and abstracts of the untranslated portions by Sir George Grierson, K.C.I.E. (London: Humphrey Milford. 7s. 6d. net.)

M. Henry Moser, aged 79, a well-known Swiss traveller, has died in Vevey. He had made several journeys in Central Asia, had taken part in the Russian Asiatic campaign in 1868-1869, and had visited Siberia, Turkestan, and Persia. His collection of Asiatic works of art is in the Berne Museum.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The West and Turkey.

Under the title of "The Flicker of Lausanne," *The Times* of July 18 discusses the peace that is to come at Lausanne. Of that peace it says: "When it does come, it will not be a shining garment; it will be a dull, drab affair, of homely texture, frayed here and there, and not perfectly sound in the seams." It comments on the general character of the peace, emphasising the new form of relationship that has grown up between the West and Turkey—a Turkey which has determined to be ruthlessly uniform and ruthlessly modern. Service by foreigners the Turk will not have at all, and will take upon himself all the manifold functions of nationality. We must, moreover, accept the new situation for what it is worth, though the conditions are unfavourable for the Turk's experiment:—

> The country is exhausted by war; its population is heavily reduced; the idea of nationality that gathered strength in the primitive environment of the interior of Anatolia has to be applied amid all those complexities of modern life which will make themselves felt as soon as peace is signed and innumerable tasks of administration, education, sanitation, and economic reconstruction thrust themselves upon the ill-equipped pioneers of a new Turkey. The prospect is not alluring, and not a few of those who knew Turkey as she was regard it with grave alarm. It is useless to complain. The new facts are there, and they are being slowly registered in an extraordinary treaty of peace. The world will have to recognise the very chastening lessons that the treaty contains. Even to get such a treaty has been an immense labour. Sound politics in such a situation means taking the Turks as they are and as they have become. We may regret the past, but we cannot recall it. After all, many of the aspirations of the Turkish Nationalists are by no means ignoble. They have been stirred by the impulses of the West, and if they show initiative and want to do themselves, in their own way and for their own nation, what they formerly allowed others to do, they will make a thousand mistakes, they will do a great deal of damage, but they may learn the lesson. They reject outside assistance now. The time may come when they will clamour for it. There is need to be patient in the interval, and to be prepared to give aid when it is required, wisely and not without hope.

BRITISH INDIAN UNION.

Mrs. Ronald Greville gave an "At Home" to meet the members of the newly formed British Indian Union last week at her house in Charles Street, Berkeley Square. The two hundred guests accepting invitations included:—The Maharaja of Nawanagar, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, the Countess of Lytton and Lady Hermione Lytton, Lord Aberconway, the Earl of Cromer, Lord and Lady Gainford, Viscount and Viscountess Erleigh, Earl and Countess Granville, the Dowager Countess of Minto, Lord and Lady Kylsant, Lord and Lady Inchcape, Lady Fitz-Gerald, Lord Leigh, Lord Lamington, Lord Glentanar, the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Larkin, Lord Justice Younger, Sir Campbell Stuart, Sir Montague Barlow, Sir Courtauld Thomson, Sir Laming and Lady Worthington-Evans, Sir Philip and Lady Lloyd-Greame, Colonel and Mrs. Wilfred Ashley, General, Mrs. and Miss Vanderbilt, Muriel Countess De La Warr, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Sir Sayid and Lady Ali Imam, Sir Dorab and Lady Tata, Mr. and Lady Cynthia Mosley, Lady Emily Lutyens, Sir Alfred and Lady Mond, Mrs. Dudley Ryder, Sir John and Lady Wallis, Lieutenant-General Sir Raleigh and Lady Egerton, Lieutenant-General Sir Alexander and Lady Cobbe, Colonel and Miss Bannerman, Sir Tej Bahadur-Sapru, Mr. and Mrs. Ameer Ali, Sir Dhanjbhoy and Lady Bomanji, Sir Arthur Chapman, Lady Henry, Lady Hambro, Sir Montague Webb, Mrs. and Miss Rustomji Faridoonji, and Mrs. Talyarkhan.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A special session of the All-India Congress will be held in Bombay in August to consider whether there should be a boycott of the Legislative Councils at the next General Election.

In reply to a Soviet protest that Roumanians had been firing on the Soviet Frontier Guards, the Roumanian Government says that the Russians are firing on Roumanians, and suggests a conference of military commanders to deal with these incidents.

A message from a *Pioneer* Teheran correspondent states that the first non-stop flight from Baghdad to Teheran has been effected by two British battleplanes, which arrived on July 20 and returned the following day conveying the British Minister.

According to Reuter, an official investigation into the recent earthquakes at Turbat-i-Haidari, Persia, shows that the number of deaths and the damage have been exaggerated. The number of deaths is estimated at nine hundred and the damage at £12,000.

The India Office announces that the following have been appointed to the Secretariat of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India: Joint Secretaries, Mr. S. F. Stewart, India Office; Mr. A. W. Street, Ministry of Agriculture. Assistant Secretary, Mr. P. Raghavendra Rau, Indian Audit Department.

The National Horse Breeding and Show Society of India has been formed to focus a national body of public opinion on horse-breeding matters, to encourage and promote horse-breeding in India, to protect and promote the interests of horse-breeders, and to give them every encouragement to improve and standardise the various types of horses bred in India, to prepare an Indian stud-book, and to procure uniformity with regard to horse shows. Major-General W. B. James has accepted the presidency of the society.

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Tuesday Morning.

The Harvest Outlook.

After an unduly prolonged spell of woman-like indecision, the monsoon has deigned to smile (or rather to weep) on India, and all will apparently be well with the Dominion for another twelve months. India has been the one uncertain quantity as regards this year's harvests, and now it would seem that we are in for a period of excellent crops all round. Was it for this year, by the way, or next that we were promised the unexampled dearth? The result of the good harvests will be generally to give a great and much-needed impetus to trade, and the authorities have been perhaps a little premature in suggesting that worse times are in store for us, though it is naturally impossible to feel any undue optimism till the Ruhr problem is a thing of the past.

The Turkish Settlement.

While it is eminently satisfactory that a settlement of any kind should at last have been reached at Lausanne, it would be idle to pretend that the arrangement which has terminated the Conference is in any way ideal or is one which does not contain by way of omission rather than commission the seeds of possible future complications. Not to make too fine a point, agreement was arrived at by the shelving of the more controversial matters, such as the Ottoman Debt coupons, concessions, and kindred subjects. At the closing meeting no settlement was forthcoming as regards the Ottoman Debt, Ismet Pasha taking the line that Turkey is too poor to meet the coupons in gold. So the matter goes for discussion between the bondholders and Turkey, and it is difficult to find grounds for supposing that those directly interested in the coupons will be able to bring the Turks to a more amenable state of mind than the delegates could. The statement that the Allies affirm the validity of the Decree of Muharran and reserve to themselves the right to intervene to protect the interests of their subjects takes us nowhere in the face of the very obvious intransigence of the Turks.

The Concession Question.

It is much the same as regards concessions. An example of the unsatisfactory position in this respect is to be found in the fact that the holders of two of the most important concessions, who as regards their existing concessions are given the right of compensation or an equivalent new concession, are given the right for five years to compete on equal terms with any other company for any part of the Chester Concession which may not have been taken over. When the essential need of Turkey is rapid reconstruction, it is impossible not to feel impatient with a policy such as this, which leads nowhere. It is true that few now take the much-heralded American concession seriously, and at no time indeed did it appear probable that the gigantic series of schemes constituting it could possibly be carried out, but that does not make the position of other would-be concessionaires more happy.

The Furness, Withy Report.

Considering the general conditions that have obtained in the shipping industry for so many months past, the report of Messrs. Furness, Withy and Co. for the twelve months ended April 30 makes remarkably good reading. The net profits, after provision for taxation, amount to £552,500, as against £655,200 for the previous year, the bulk of the profits being derived, as on the previous occasion, mainly from the miscellaneous branches of the company's business and from investments, rather than from freight. Last year no alteration was made for depreciation, but this time £200,000 is transferred to the depreciation account. A dividend of 5 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and a bonus of 2½ per cent. is now recommended, bringing the distribution to 7½ per cent., as compared with 10 per cent., and leaving £202,315 to be carried forward. This year's distribution is the smallest for twelve years, but, while a much larger dividend could have been paid, it is impossible in the prevailing circumstances to question the wisdom of the policy of the directors in conserving the resources of the company.

Eastern Cable Companies.

Both the Eastern Telegraph Company and the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company report decreased revenues for 1922. As regards the former company, the gross revenue amounted to £3,489,100, the receipts from cable and similar sources totalling £3,413,000, a decline of £610,300, which was offset to a considerable extent by substantial economies. A dividend of 2½ per cent. is proposed, which will maintain the distribution at 10 per cent., tax free; £400,000 is placed to the reserve, and £515,300 is to be carried forward. The gross revenue of the Eastern Extension amounted to £2,061,520, the decline as regards cables being £372,200, while income from other sources improved. On the other hand expenditure rose, the available balance being £724,800. The usual dividend of 10 per cent. tax free takes £400,000, and the carry forward is £382,700. The main reason for the decreased revenues of these companies is undoubtedly to be found in the world-wide trade depression. The use of wireless, so far as one can judge, has not had much to do with it, though what will happen in the future in this respect is another matter.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

Head Office: **64, CORNHILL, LONDON, E.C.3.**

Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, HOLT & CO.

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited.

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Oil Notes and News.

ROUMANIAN OIL POSITION IN 1922.—II.

During the latter half of the year it appeared exceedingly difficult to obtain from the Ministry of Commerce permission to export. Then the situation in the Orient became uncertain, and for some weeks no effort was made to effect export business, it being considered dangerous to quote prices for export on account of the exchange. Towards the end of the year it was proposed to suspend export because of shortage of products for internal consumption.

The exports during 1922 prove that the traffic depends upon the taxes imposed. If the companies consider the taxes too high, they do not export, as, for instance, during 1921. The taxes being lower in 1922, export was lively in spite of the handicaps mentioned above, but it became certain towards the end of the year that the export taxes would be increased again. The taxes were collected in the currency of the country to which the products were destined, if the currency of such country was more normal than the Roumanian; thus the State was able to obtain foreign money, of which it was in need for purposes not connected with the oil industry.

Maximum Prices for Internal Consumption.

Throughout the year there was an outcry from the companies, protesting against the maximum prices of products for internal consumption, as loud as the outcry in 1921 against the export taxes which checked export for eight months of that year. The companies sent delegations to the Ministry with proposals, the Ministry made counter-proposals, and finally a regulation was proposed which, whilst increasing the maximum prices of products for internal consumption, also increased the export taxes; thus, what the State proposed to allow as extra on the internal consumption, they proposed to take back to some extent in export taxes.

The three principal companies in Roumania recorded profits for 1921 as follows: Romano Americana (Standard Oil), 193½ million lei on a capital of 200 millions; Astra Romana (Royal Dutch Shell), 228 millions on a capital of 225 millions; Steaua Romana (Roumanian, British, French), 139 millions on a capital of 310 millions. These apparently formidable profits are frequently alluded to by the Government as indicative of the excessive profits made in the industry, and this the companies deny. It has to be remembered that the profits quoted above are in paper lei, whilst the capital of the three companies was subscribed—at any rate partly—in the equivalent of gold. The quotations of oil shares in lei at the Bucharest exchange show what a difference this makes. A 50 per cent. recorded profit was reported as equivalent to 2½ per cent. on a gold basis. On the other hand, the companies in 1922 exported large quantities of valuable products held over from 1921 because of the heavy export taxes.

The Government believes the companies can well afford to supply at a sacrifice Roumania's oil requirements for the railways, marine, military, and navigation services, and also the needs of private industries; hence the imposition of maximum prices whereby the companies are obliged to deliver about 70 per cent. of their oil products at a fraction of their value for the benefit of the State and private industries. The companies take particular objection to making sacrifices to private industries, who would, indeed, prefer to pay reasonable prices for fuel in order to be sure of getting it. Benzine for the numerous motor-cars running in Bucharest is sold for only about a quarter its world value, at the expense of the industry.

Most of the small refiners have no production of their own, and are obliged to buy their crude oil from small producers without refineries. When the cost of crude oil and refining became more than the products realised on maximum prices with export quota proceeds, the small refiners shut down until the price of crude oil should fall, or the price of the export quota should increase, or the export tax be reduced to enable them to work at a profit. The producers on their side, showing that their drilling costs were very high, set out to prove that the price of the crude oil did not cover the expenditure and risk, and demanded higher maximum prices so that they might obtain a better price for it.

The Government insist that Roumania's needs be supplied at nominal prices, and the difference be obtained from the quota allowed for export. The Government, however, also tax the export with keen eyes on world prices, in order to leave the industry only what the Government consider a reasonable profit on capital invested.

This was the situation at the end of the year when the proposed new régime was published. Under the new scheme, whilst the maximum prices are increased especially to the private industries, and not specially to the State, the companies are obliged to break up the crude oil according to Government regulations, and no company can export unless evidence is given that its internal consumption quota has been provided. The regulations do not appear to provide for the several different qualities of oil from different fields, and otherwise the maximum prices still appear to show but little regard to the fact that whilst lei are received for the products, the material needed in the industry must be paid abroad in the equivalent of gold. Under the new régime, a kilogram of residuals must still be sold for the price of a kilogram of lignite. Also the application of the regulations soon created hardships, for permissions to export were delayed to those entitled thereto because of applications from those not entitled. The companies contend that the regulations regarding the treatment of crude oil are not in sympathy with its production and the country's requirements of specific products. Further, the regulations appear to leave the peddling of oil products to private consumers, free of all restrictions, so that whilst the refiners will only receive the maximum prices, there is nothing to govern the price at which the oil will eventually be peddled to the small consumers.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH
SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, etc. Tablets, 6d.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d. and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery. Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 4s. each.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.
Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON, S.E.1.

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The Government is anxious to encourage drilling on the one hand, and on the other considers itself obliged to impose restrictions as a safeguard. In spite of the increased export tax, the new régime should prove more advantageous to the industry in 1923 than that which obtained all through 1922, so long as the leu remains heavily depreciated; but it still leaves the companies dissatisfied.

It will be evident from the foregoing that the complete liberty demanded by the companies is not likely to be obtained. In the meantime, the demands for fuel for internal consumption are naturally on the increase, and the State requirements are sometimes such that cisterns loaded with fuel oil and consigned to the refiners' customers are requisitioned by the authorities. There has not been enough fuel for factories, and Bucharest is sometimes threatened with a fuel famine, which might also mean a water famine, although water is in any case only obtainable for a few hours a day. The country is described as blessed with rich deposits of oil, gas, and coal, and yet has not sufficient fuel for its needs, and this is the result of maximum prices, which discourage drilling, and cause some of the fuel that exists to disappear, doubtless into the hands of speculators.

BRITISH CONSULAR REPORTS.

V.—CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. Sydney P. Elliott, Acting Commercial Secretary at Prague, on the industrial and economic situation in Czecho-Slovakia as at March, 1923:—

The outstanding feature in the economic life of Czecho-Slovakia during the period from June, 1922, to March, 1923, has been the rise in the rate of exchange of the Czecho-Slovak crown. On July 1, 1922, the Czech crown stood at 10 centimes (or 229 per £) on the Zurich Exchange, but by August 24 it had risen to no less than 19.60 centimes (or 124 per £). The result of this abnormally rapid rise was to plunge the country into an economic crisis of the first magnitude. Exports fell off with alarming rapidity, stocks of raw materials and finished goods depreciated in value, costs of production automatically rose, and unemployment increased by leaps and bounds. A slight improvement set in in December, when the crown reacted to about 160 per £, at which figure it has since become more or less stabilised. Since the Czech currency first started its upward course after November, 1921, both industry and labour have made tremendous sacrifices in their endeavours to readjust prices to the new purchasing value of the crown abroad. During the intervening period wages have, on an average, been cut down 30 per cent. and prices of most manufactured articles have been reduced from 40 to 50 per cent. In view of the fact, however, that since November, 1921, the Czech crown has appreciated 260 per cent., whereas prices at the outside have fallen only on an average 50 per cent., it is obvious that costs of production to-day are still too high, and that if Czecho-Slovakia wishes to hold its export trade and to compete in the international markets at a profit, these must decline.

Problem for Manufacturers.

It is this problem with which manufacturers are confronted to-day, and it is one not easy of solution. Even should the crown remain stable at its present exchange, it is patent to all that wages and overhead charges must come down still further, but any more cuts in this direction must be accompanied by a corresponding fall in the cost of living. As, however, since January of this year the trend of wholesale prices has been upwards and the official statistics, too, show a slight increase in food prices since the beginning of the year, it would appear that, unless the Government comes to the assistance of industry, costs of production for the present had touched bottom. Two of the most important factors which militate against a further reduction in costs are the excessive coal tax and high freights, and manufacturers are pressing for a reduction in these items.

The official returns for the years 1920 and 1921 show that, expressed in values, the excess of exports over imports for the two years amounts to approximately 9 milliards of crowns. The correctness of these figures has been challenged both by prominent Czech and German industrials, and from an analysis of the figures it appears that, although the trade balances for the years in question were undoubtedly on the credit side, the active balance shown by the official figures did not completely correspond to the actual position. The fault probably arose from the method hitherto employed in arriving at the values of the different classes of goods exported and imported. Up to the end of 1922 the monetary values of the foreign trade have only been estimated, and it is natural that discrepancies have arisen between the computed value and the actual price at which manufacturers have sold their goods. From the beginning of the current year, however, a new method of compiling the foreign trade statistics has been introduced, and henceforth exporters will be compelled to declare the value of goods sold abroad, and, if necessary, to produce copies of invoices. The financial policy which the present Government has pursued since it took office has many critics amongst business men, and some regard it as a financial experiment upon which the whole economic life of the country is being hazarded. Whether the raising of the crown has or has not been carried too far will probably be proved in the course of the current year, but in the meantime there is no doubt that for some months past the Czech crown has been stabilised at a figure

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

ANIMAL INTESTINES
Cleaned and Packed in Salt or Dried.
L. & R. HEYMANS, Ltd., Importers,
69, St. John St., London, E.C.1. (Estd. 1872.)

ASHWELL & NESBIT, LTD.
Barkby Lane, Leicester.
Makers of the RUNWELL SEMI-ROTARY PUMP.

CANVAS, PAINTS,
MANILLA & WIRE ROPES, ETC.
J. McMillan & Bolton, Ltd., Dashwood House, London, E.C.

EMERY STONE.
The Levant Mineral Co., Ltd., Largest Importers in United Kingdom.
Open to receive offers of high-class qualities
Address: 29-30 Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.2.

MICA
AND ALL
Electrical Insulating Materials,
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Contractors to British, American, French, Italian, Admiralty and War Office.
PRESTON, ENGLAND.

PRODUCE from the NEAR and FAR EAST
EDWARD S. JOLY, HAMBURG 14.
General Commission Agent.
First-class Bank References

STEAM & HYDRAULIC ENGINE PACKING MANUFACTURERS
(Flax, Asbestos & Cotton), and All Engine Room Stores
ATTWATER & SONS,
Hopwood St. Mills, Preston
Tel.Add.:"Attwaters,Preston"
Contractors to British, American, French and Italian Admiralty.

THE NEAR EAST
reaches a great potential market stretching from Morocco to India

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above its real economic value. Its value abroad is far higher than its purchasing power at home, and manufacturers have, as yet, been unable to readjust this discrepancy.

The Capital Levy.

The republic of Czecho-Slovakia was the first State which attempted to place its finances on a sound basis after the chaotic conditions prevailing after the war by introducing a capital levy. The results of the capital levy have proved extremely disappointing, and the measure itself has been a source of considerable embarrassment to the Government. The law is most complicated, and is not understood by the officials responsible for its administration. It has never been carried out to the letter, except in certain particular cases. Demands for the payment of capital levy have been made to those known or believed to be in a position to pay, but the actual sum to be paid has in most cases been the subject of negotiation between the Ministry of Finance and the individual concerned, and in almost every case the final assessment has always been far below that fixed by law. This levy has had a very detrimental effect upon industry and commerce, but owing to the slow and lenient manner in which the law has been applied it has not had the disastrous results which it otherwise would have had if it had been strictly enforced. It is highly probable that a very large proportion of the tax levied will never be paid.

Movement of Trade.

Since the formation of the republic there has been a remarkable redirection of trade to the West. Trade with Germany and Austria and the Succession States has fallen off, whilst that with countries with a high valuta has increased. This, however, may be regarded as only temporary, due to the present difficulties experienced by the Succession States in purchasing Czech goods with their inflated currencies. The Government fully realises that the future of Czecho-Slovak trade lies in Central Europe, and is framing its policy accordingly. Opinions differ as to what form this policy should take. Many advocate a Customs Union, but the rivalry existing between the several Succession States and the financial and economic problems which would have to be solved before an agreement could be effected render this difficult of accomplishment. In the meantime the Government, in its endeavour to cultivate the old traditional economic relations and interests so essential to the welfare of Central Europe, has concluded commercial treaties with most of the Succession States, and if it were possible to remove the fiscal walls which each State has built around itself by the conclusion of Customs conventions, the greatest obstacle to trade in Central Europe to-day would have been removed.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ROUMAINE

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - Lei 50,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - - - 12,865,588.76
DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS 273,629,395.47
(At the date of June 30, 1920).

Head Office: BUCHAREST, Str. Smardan, 3.
Branches: BRAILA, CHISINAU (Bessarabia).

Agencies: Galatz, Constantza, Bazargic (New Dobroudja), Craiova and Ploesti.

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EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Letters of Credit for all Countries. Special Departments for operations of goods and grain. Telegraphic Address: COMRO.

BANQUE DU SYNDICAT AGRICOLE JALOMITZA

CAPITAL - 60,000,000 Lei.
BUCHAREST. Branches: CALARASH and DOROHOI.
Head Office: Telegraphic Address: BANCAIAL.
Every description of Banking Business transacted; participations; special section for grain trade. General Manager: Dr. C. B. MALTEZIANO.

Trade with the United Kingdom.

During 1922 there was a noticeable falling off of trade with the United Kingdom, both in imports and exports, due, on the one hand, to a tightening up of the import restrictions as far as manufactured goods were concerned, and, on the other hand, to the high value of the crown, which rendered Czech prices uncompetitive. The exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 127,386 metric tons and 1,069,101 pieces, against 152,438 metric tons and 426,803 pieces in 1921; and imports from the United Kingdom totalled 48,490 metric tons and 13,253 pieces, against 97,692 metric tons and 1,040 pieces for the previous year. The chief Czech exports were:—Wood, coal, and peat, 39,950 metric tons; sugar, 19,912 metric tons; clothing, 1,069,067 pieces; glass and glass goods, 20,060 metric tons. The chief imports from the United Kingdom included:—Iron and ironware, 13,145 metric tons; woollen goods and yarns, 6,505 metric tons; wood, coal, and peat, 6,413 metric tons. The fact that Czecho-Slovakia itself manufactures for export many of the articles from the staple export commodities of the United Kingdom, and the policy which the Government in the past has adopted in protecting its own extensive industries to the exclusion of those produced abroad have made it extremely difficult for British manufacturers to extend their trade to this country. It is, however, hoped that the Commercial Treaty to be concluded between H.M. Government and the Republic of Czecho-Slovakia will remove many of the difficulties which have hitherto existed in developing trade with that country.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.)

Egypt.

Iron Pipes, Etc.—The Inspector, First Circle of Irrigation, Savoy House, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of corrugated nestable galvanised iron pipes, etc. August 20.

Cycles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of pedal cycles. August 21.

Dredger.—The Inspector of Irrigation, Assiout Barrage Circle, Assiout, invites tenders for the supply of 12 in. hydraulic dredger and a tug, required for Assiout Circle, Assiout. September 11.

Roumania.

Tools.—The Roumanian State Railways Administration invite tenders for the supply, in three lots, of high-speed steel twist drills, cast steel taps and reamers. August 14. (D.O.T.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	180-190
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	420-440
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	1,687,500
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.80
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 3/32-1.4 1/8
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.75
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	885
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	50-55,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 3/32-1.4 1/8
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	690-700*
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.59 5/8-4.59 3/4
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	76.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	104 5/8
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-330,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	700-750,000

*Nominal.

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BRITISH ROUMANIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the fifth annual meeting of the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce Inc. on July 17 Viscount Goschen, chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts for the past year, referred to the considerable contraction during 1922 as compared with the two previous years, of the volume of business transacted between Great Britain and Roumania. He said that, according to the British Customs returns, the exports from Great Britain to Roumania during 1922 had declined to £2,633,000 (60,000 tons), the largest item being, as usual, cotton goods to the value of £1,500,000. The total figures for the two previous years were £5,800,000 for 1921 and £7,100,000 for 1920. Imports into Great Britain from Roumania for 1922 were valued at £1,700,000 (205,500 tons), the largest items being cereals £957,000 and oil £550,000. These figures also showed a reduction on a total of £3,400,000 for 1921, and £3,200,000 for 1920. The reduction in the figures for the total of goods exported from this country to Roumania was no doubt due to a large extent to the fact that considerable stocks were held in Roumania at the beginning of last year, and that at the present time it was believed that the merchants' stocks were very much depleted.

The recent law passed in Roumania for the prolongation of the payment of debts due by Roumanian merchants to exporters from this country, if the settlement was considered satisfactory by the merchants here, and also in view of the fact that stocks were so low in Roumania, might result in bigger figures for this year than for the period under review. He believed that whatever business there was at the present time was being conducted on a more healthy basis than some of the business that had been concluded during the years 1920 and 1921. Roumania, he pointed out, was an important customer for this country, and with an improvement in general world conditions, which might reasonably be hoped for in the near future, the prospects for business might be brighter. Recent legislation in Roumania affecting the oil industry should result in the attraction of more foreign capital into that industry, and it was to be expected that the overdue development of Roumanian oil potentialities might now be realised.

M. Titulesco, Roumanian Minister in London, was unanimously re-elected honorary president of the Chamber, and Viscount Goschen vice-president. The following were re-elected members of the Council for the ensuing year:—Messrs. E. T. Agius, John F. Cleeves, H. Ernest Crawley, Sir Edward Manville, M.P., Sir S. F. Mendl, K.B.E., Mr. Percy Quilter, and Mr. Robert Rowell.

It was reported that the Council of the Chamber, at its meeting that day, had resolved to make representations in the proper quarter with a view to the restoration of the use of cable codes for telegrams to Roumania.

YUGOSLAV RAILWAY REGULATIONS.

The British Commercial Secretary at Belgrade states that, in accordance with a decision of the Ministry of Communications, railway booking clerks may not demand that foreign travellers pay for ticket and other railway charges in their own (foreign) currency. If, however, the passengers so wish, the booking clerks are obliged to accept foreign currencies, but only those which are "healthier" (less depreciated) than the dinar. Change will not be given in foreign currency, but in dinars. He further states that the Minister of Communications, in conjunction with the Minister of Finance, will prescribe official rates of exchange at which foreign currencies will be accepted in payment for passenger tickets and the carriage of goods and baggage.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(*From Our Own Correspondent.*)

Athens.

The total number of steamers which entered the port of Piræus during June was 572. Of these, 470 were Greek, 47 Italian, 20 British, 7 Roumanian, 6 French, 6 American, 6 German, 3 Dutch, 2 Russian, 2 Swedish, 1 Belgian, and 1 Bulgarian. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same period was 638, of which 11 were Italian and 1 French.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs amounted to 12,929,000 drachmæ during the month of June, as against 14,918,000 drachmæ collected during the corresponding month last year. The decrease of about two million drachmæ is due to the appreciation of the drachma, seeing that duty is always paid on a gold basis.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 9).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11); s.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 13).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, July 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, July 28); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 3); s.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 18).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Malcolm for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, August 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Chester (Birkenhead, July 28); s.s. City of Yokohama (Birkenhead. August 10).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, August 4); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, August 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4), s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kashgar for Bombay (London, August 10); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25).

Prince Line.—S.s. Italian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, July 28).

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended June 30 amounted to £E6,864.

The Levant Co., Ltd., announces that the offer to the shareholders of 200,000 Ordinary shares of £1 each has been fully subscribed.

SULZER BROTHERS, ALEXANDRIA.
SPECIAL BRANCH.
CLEARING, FORWARDING and TRANSIT
4 Rue de la Gare du Caire, 4
P.O.B. 1492. Tel. 1025.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY
FOUNDED 1895.
Capital paid up - - - - - - 5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920 53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920 - - - 28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed 150,000,000
Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.
HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Hamadan, June 6.

The general market situation shows no signs of improvement. Wheat prices have fallen from 20 per cent. to 25 per cent., as an excellent harvest is assured. Important purchases of opium are now being made at prices varying between 8,700 krans and 9,000 krans per case containing 910 kilos.

Cyprus, June 2.

The market is very dull. The prospects of the coming crop are good. There is no demand from abroad for cereals. A shipment is anticipated for the middle of June.

Cyprus, June 9.

Small sales of wool and cumin seed have taken place in Marseilles. There is a noticeable decrease in imports, particularly from Germany.

Cyprus, June 16.

There is a slightly better tone in the market. Imports continue to decline, whereas exportation is on the increase.

Mosul, June 16.

The wool market is very active. The price of the batman of 13½ kilos reaches Rs.12.8.

Jerusalem, June 9.

Barley and wheat of the new crop are beginning to be sold on the market. Owing to the good results of the wheat crop prices are going down. On the other hand, the price of barley is maintained, the quantities offered being of small importance.

Jerusalem, June 16.

The prices of cereals are continuing to fall. Other markets are quiet.

Nablus, June 9.

The market remains quiet. The sale of Nablus soap on the Egyptian market has been insignificant this week, and prices have tended to weaken.

Nablus, June 16.

The price of Nablus soap in Egypt has undergone a new fall this week. The kantar is sold at Ps.310 to Ps.290, according to the quality, as against Ps.320 and Ps.300 the previous week. Even with this fall there have been no important sales. The cereal harvest continues under favourable conditions. Everything points to a good yield.

Haifa, June 16.

The grain market remains firm. Trade in manufactures has been active, but the export trade has been paralysed this week by the fluctuations in the exchange on France and Italy.

Haifa, June 23.

The grain market is quiet. The export trade is at a standstill owing to the fall in the exchange on France and Italy.

Jaffa, June 9.

This season's melon crop is estimated at about four times that of last year. Shipments to Egypt have now commenced.

Jaffa, June 23.

The state of the local markets is unchanged. A small quantity of lupins has been shipped to Marseilles.

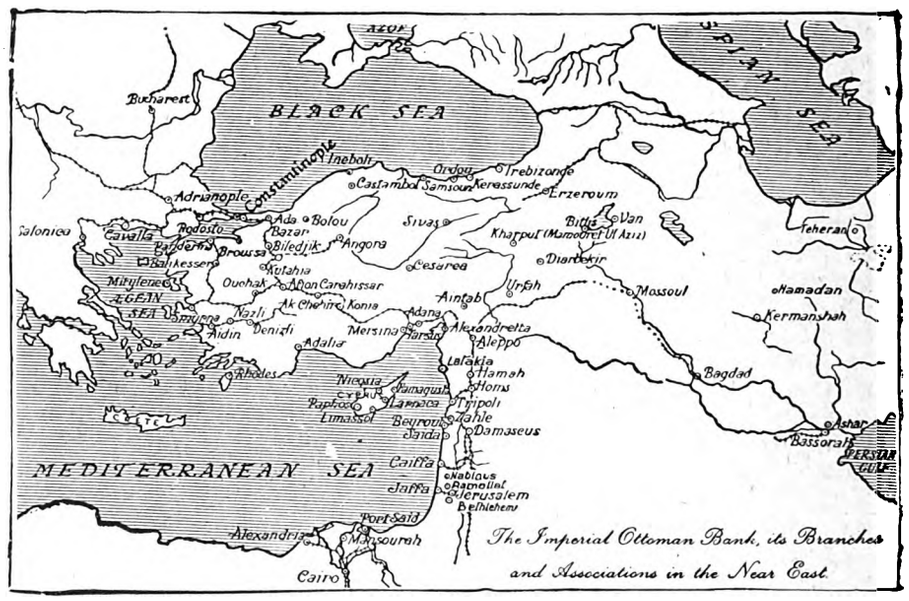
Anglo-Egyptian oil output for the week ended July 20:—Gemsah, 12 tons (previous week 11 tons); Hurghada, 3,367 tons (against 3,305 tons).

The half-yearly general meeting of the Smyrna-Aidin Railway will be held at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, on September 25.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EGYPTIAN MARKETS.

Futures Dull and Weak.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ended July 13, state:—Since our last report, the futures market has been rather dull and closed weak. The demand from abroad has been poor, and the New York market has been this week rather quiet. Very few transactions have taken place in our market, and what was done consisted almost exclusively of straddles between old and new crop positions. At the second tender of July Sakellarides a further 12,000 kantars were delivered and were absorbed very easily despite the fact that the premium of November over July has now dropped to about 150 points, whereas a few days ago it was about 200 points. Ashmounis have kept fairly strong and have again substantially appreciated in comparison to Sakellarides. The justification of this must be found in the fact that the available Ashmouni supplies are negligible, whereas Sakellarides tenderable cotton is still in ample supply on the market. There is nothing of note to say about Egyptian in Liverpool, which continues to be the cheaper market of the two and, as such, attracts most of the present trade demand. Stocks in Liverpool are now almost equal to those at the same period last year. This week's receipts amounted to 7,831 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,627,779 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 68,981 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,178,490 krs., against 1,239,640 krs. a week ago and 1,772,838 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—We have had a quiet week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 4,500 B/s, of which we estimate B/s 3,050 Sakellarides, B/s 1,400 Uppers, and 50 B/s Various. With July contracts depressed owing to fear of dockets we have now a most unusual position, with Good Fair and Fully Good Fair spot at over the price of the contract, and Fully Fair at only 1/4 dollar below. In Uppers only Fair and below are quoted at below the price of August contracts. Cotton below Fully Good Fair in all growths continues extremely scarce, and holders are not ready sellers.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in with the grades above Fully Good Fair in most request. Prices of spot against contracts are generally considerably dearer than last week.

Uppers.—As in Sakellarides all styles have changed hands with most of the business in the better grades. Prices of spot against contracts are considerably dearer than last week.

Brown and White.—A small business has been done at hardening rates.

Crop 1923.—The plant is progressing normally everywhere. The leaf worm attack is reported to be rather light. The report of the Ministry of Agriculture on the condition of the crop for the month of June reads as follows: "The heat and the fine weather have resulted in an improvement of the plant since the previous month, but the growth in the majority of the districts is still irregular, and the development remains backward. The prospects of the crop in Upper Egypt are more favourable than in Lower Egypt. Water has everywhere been ample. Flowering is general, and the formation of the bolls is advancing in the early-sown fields. There have been numerous attacks of cotton worm, but they are as a whole benignant, and damage has been insignificant. Light attacks of 'wilt' are also reported in parts of Lower Egypt and in Minia. The bersim worm and aphis have also made their appearance, but no danger is anticipated. On the whole, the condition of the crop has improved slightly during the month, but apart from certain districts, the plants are still late."

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Inquiry Falling Off.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 18:—

The inquiry has not been so good this week, and an easier tendency has again been apparent, particularly in the Sakel market, which has attracted more attention. Fully Good Fair cotton, at about "100 to 125 on," continues to hold the field, which is not to be wondered at with futures in the neighbourhood of 14½d. per lb. More business has been done in Good Sakellaridis again, and visitors from Egypt are astonished at the low prices obtainable here for this cotton. Nevertheless, the inquiry, as we have several times insisted lately, is gradually working up to the better grades, and on one day this week quite a landmark was established when, after a very long interval, "good" Sakel was grouped with the lower qualities (in the daily official quotations) and left unchanged, when Fine and Extra Fine Sakel were reduced 10 points. Upper cotton has rather lost ground again, the relative attractiveness of Sakellaridis quite putting it in the shade for the time being.

Fair Sakellaridis, about 14.00d., has been in good request with a limited selection. Low cotton seems to be steadily losing ground, and we should advise holders to revise limits and "get out" before the end of the season. Brown cotton has been neglected. A persistent inquiry for White Sudan has been in evidence, but does not seem to have extended to actual business, which has been very quiet in all Sudan growths. Crop news continues to be favourable.

Forwardings to spinners, for the week ending 13th inst., were returned as 6,431 bales. A further slight decrease in the Liverpool stock is noticeable. Total sales 4,200 (includes 100 bales Sudan). Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 10 points for Fair to F.G.F.; 20 points for Good, and 45 points for Fair and Extra Fine. Brown cotton is reduced 20 points, with F.G.F. and Good exceptionally 40 points lower. Upper is 20 points lower all round. F.G. Fair Sakel to-day, 15.65d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

No Improvement in Business.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 21 states:—

The state of affairs in this market during the past week shows no change from that recently prevailing, and, in fact, it does not appear likely that there can be any improvement until doubts are set at rest with regard to the extent and quality of the growing crop. As has been before pointed out, it is useless to expect any pronounced activity on the part of buyers, whilst there is such a considerable difference between the prices quoted for raw cotton from old and new crops.

Yarn.—The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners has decided that the basic price scheme which it inaugurated on June 1 last shall be abandoned, since, as previously reported, it was being ignored by most spinners, who found that they could not obtain the minimum prices quoted. The state of things in the section of the industry which spins American cotton could hardly be worse. Prices are very weak notwithstanding the steadiness of the raw material, and there is considerable pressure to sell. The Egyptian section, whilst not so busily engaged as recently, is still in quite a fair position.

Cloth.—There is said to have been a larger inquiry but no improvement in the actual business done. Demand from China has fallen off, and there is nothing particularly good to be said regarding any market. Transactions continue to be mostly in small lots to satisfy immediate requirements.

Raw Cotton.—Prices show little change on the week. Imports and "spot" demand in Liverpool both continue on the small side. Reports from the United States and Egypt with regard to the growing crop have in both cases been of a favourable character. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 15.64; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 15.65.

The quantity of gold extracted from the mines in India during April amounted to 35,544 ounces, valued at Rs.21,32,394.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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Company Meeting.

BANK OF ROUMANIA.

Satisfactory Harvest Outlook.

The ordinary annual general meeting of the Bank of Roumania, Limited, was held on July 18 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. The Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presided.

The Secretary (Mr. H. Locke) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen, in rising to move the adoption of the report and the accounts for the year ending December 31, 1922, I assume that you will take the report and balance-sheet as read. The shareholders will, I have no doubt, be satisfied with the figures presented in the balance-sheet. As you will see, the balance available after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, income tax, corporation tax, and exchange depreciation in the bank's funds employed in Roumania, amounts to £16,437 7s. 6d. The board recommends the payment of a dividend of 6s. per share, less income tax, which will absorb £11,062 10s., and that the balance of £5,374 17s. 6d. be transferred to the contingency account. In comparison with the total figures for the year 1921, there is a reduction of a little over £250,000. This is accounted for by the fact that the conversion into sterling of the Bucharest accounts has been made at 800 lei to the £ sterling, as against 550 for the previous year, although the currency figures in themselves show a slight increase.

The business of the bank continues to be satisfactory. The working expenses, however, are heavy, occasioned by the high cost of living, etc., in Roumania, and the high rate of exchange at which we have to convert our profits on the other side reflects unfavourably on our profits in sterling. There was during the year 1922 a depreciation in the leu from 550 to 800 to the £, and the Government took steps to regulate dealings in exchange, and the National Bank of Roumania has also lent support recently to improve the exchange position. The exchange rate has of late been much steadier. Your board has again to report that the conservative policy to which I made reference last year has been continued. By increased and extended taxation, Roumania is making a very serious effort to reach equilibrium in its budget. Not unnaturally many of these taxes, in the state of development in which Roumania finds itself, are in the nature of experiments and do not all fully achieve their object. It is worthy of note that the Government has ceased to have recourse to the National Bank for borrowing for its own purposes, although the needs of the commerce of the country resulted in an increase in the note circulation of the National Bank from 13,722 millions of lei on January 1 to 15,997 millions of lei on December 31.

The Roumanian Government, after a careful review of the position of the oil industry, have recently modified the conditions of export and also internal distribution, and this step will assist those engaged in that important industry. With regard to the harvest, on which so much of Roumania's prosperity depends, while there is little increase in the area under cultivation, the condition of the crops at present warrants expectations that the production will exceed that for last year. Our Bucharest manager, in a telegram just received, informs me that recent rain has had a very beneficial effect on the barley, oats, and maize, and the prospects at the moment are for a good and abundant crop, provided there is a little more rain within the next three or four weeks. Some damage was done by recent hailstorms.

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With regard to the export trade from Roumania, very much depends on the railway services for transport, and, although progress has been made within the year under review, railway facilities are still far behind requirements. This matter, the importance of which is fully recognised by the authorities, is now, I understand, occupying very serious attention on the part of the Roumanian Government. Before resuming my seat I desire on behalf of the board to thank the managers and staffs both here and in Roumania for their loyal co-operation in carrying out the affairs of the bank.

I now move: "That the report and balance-sheet now read be received and adopted, that the sum of £5,374 17s. 6d. be placed to the credit of the contingency account, that the dividend for the year ended December 31, 1922, be fixed at 6s. per share, less income tax, and that this dividend be paid on and after July 24, 1923." Before putting the resolution I should like to inquire if any shareholder desires to ask any question.

General the Hon. Sir H. A. Lawrence, K.C.B., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. W. H. Barry proposed that the retiring director (Viscount Goschen) be re-elected. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Albert Stern, K.B.E., C.M.G., seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

On the motion of Mr. J. W. Hoskins, seconded by Mr. H. Smethurst, the auditors (Messrs. Jackson, Pixley and Co.) were re-appointed.

Mr. Roselli then moved that a vote of thanks be accorded to the chairman, the directors, management, and staff for their services during the past year. Mr. E. C. Barter seconded the resolution, which was unanimously approved.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the compliment, and the proceedings terminated.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

The gross receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the year ended March 31, totalled £343,792. The working expenses totalled £259,716, compared with £296,986 for the previous year. This reduction is principally due to the decreased cost of fuel. The construction of the extension from Sah-el-Hagar to Foua is rapidly progressing, and it is anticipated will be completed and opened during October, 1923. The first instalment, amounting to £E37,000 of £E90,000, the balance of the purchase price of the Cairo Helouan Railway, was paid over to the company by the Government on June 6. Application will be made for further instalments to be paid as the work of construction of the line progresses. The Egyptian Government has agreed to refund to the company in three annual instalments their participation in the interest on investments, etc., received from the company during the four years ended March 31, 1921. The second annual instalment of £9,102 has been taken credit for and is shown as a deduction from the Government's proportion of profits in the net revenue account. The balance carried to the net revenue account is £84,075, plus interest £7,156 and balance brought forward of £61,650, making £152,882. After providing for interest on Debentures and for all fixed charges, and making provision for the proportion of profits due to the Egyptian Government, £103,230 remains. The board recommend a dividend of 4 per cent. on the Preference shares for the year, leaving £61,599 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, July 27, noon.

Lake Copais Co.

The report for 1922 states that the net profit in Greece for the year was £9,627. The profit in drachmæ was very much in excess of that of the previous year, but the result in sterling was seriously affected by the heavy depreciation in exchange. The directors recommend the distribution at the full rate of 5 per cent. (less tax) on the "A" Debenture stock in fully-paid 5 per cent. "A" Debenture stock at par, in accordance with the scheme approved by the stockholders. The capital expenditure during year amounted to £8,919, the principal items being the purchase of land, including that upon which the company's light railway runs from its main stores to the Athens-Larissa Railway. Meeting, Winchester House, July 27, 2.30 p.m.

Eastern Telegraph.

The revenue of the Eastern Telegraph Company for 1922 amounted to £3,489,071, less £1,653,838 for ordinary expenses, and £540,256 for maintenance of cables, income taxes payable abroad, and special payments and temporary allowances to staff, leaving £1,294,976. After providing for income and corporation taxes and final adjustment of excess profits duty, interest on loan from Eastern and South African Telegraph Company, interest on Mortgage Deben-

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ture stock, and dividends on preference stock there remains £847,249, plus £568,008 brought in, making £1,415,257. The directors have placed £400,000 to general reserve. A final dividend of 2½ per cent. is recommended, making 10 per cent., free of tax, for year, leaving £515,257 to be carried forward.

Eastern Extension Telegraph.

The gross revenue of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company for 1922 amounted to £2,061,540, from which is deducted £755,440 for ordinary expenses and £319,938 for maintenance of cables and special expenditure, leaving £986,165. After providing £231,266 for income tax and corporation tax, and £30,096 for interest on Mortgage Debenture stock, there remains £724,802, plus £307,880 brought forward, making £1,032,682. The directors have transferred £250,000 to general reserve. Four dividends, making 10 per cent., free of tax, have been paid, leaving £382,682 to be carried forward.

Bank of Roumania.

The report of the Bank of Roumania for 1922 states that after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, income tax, corporation tax, etc., placing £2,000 to pension fund, and providing for exchange depreciation in the bank's funds employed in Roumania, the amount available is £16,437 7s. 6d. The directors recommend a dividend of 6s. per share (less tax), absorbing £11,062 10s. 0d., and carrying the balance of £5,374 17s. 6d. to credit of the contingency account. The accounts from Bucharest have been converted into sterling at the rate current on December 31 last.

Furness, Withy.

The report of the directors of Furness, Withy and Co., Ltd., for the year ended April 30, states that the profits, after providing for taxation and including the balance brought forward, amount to £758,565 12s. 11d. The year has again been one of serious depression in the shipping industry and, as was the case last year, the board has had to rely mainly for profits upon other branches of the company's business, and dividends on investments. The usual half-yearly dividends on the preference shares were paid on November 1, 1922, and May 1, 1923, and on the same dates dividends were paid on the ordinary shares at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of income tax. The directors recommend the payment of a bonus of 2½ per cent., free of income tax, on the Ordinary shares for the past twelve months, which will represent a total dividend for the year of 7½ per cent., free of income tax. They have also transferred a sum of £200,000 to depreciation account, leaving a balance of £202,315 12s. 11d. to carry forward to next year's account. The bonus will be paid to all shareholders registered on the books of the company on July 26, and the warrants will be posted on August 13. In respect to the current financial year, the warrants for the half-yearly dividends on the ordinary and preference shares will be posted on October 31. Meeting: Furness House, Leadenhall Street, E.C., to-day, noon

Oilfields of Egypt.

The report of the Oilfields of Egypt for the year ended March 31 states that of the amount outstanding on call account at March 31, 1922, £18,389 was collected during year, and 11,811 shares were forfeited for non-payment of calls, the amount received on forfeited shares account being increased by £3,052. The balance of £4,264 outstanding is considered to be good, and every effort is being made to collect same. Well No. 2, Ras Dhib, was drilled to 1,910 ft., traces of gas and oil being met with; from that depth down to 2,026 ft. no traces of gas or oil were encountered, and it was therefore decided to cease drilling after consultation with the Mines Controller and the representative of the Geological Survey Department of the Egyptian Government, who concurred in the view of the company's technical advisers that the possibilities of deep oil were remote. As regards Ras Bahar, funds are not available for carrying the well to necessary depth, nor has it been found possible to raise further money for the purpose, in view of the fact that a number of companies have lately ceased operations in Egypt after having expended much capital in an endeavour, without success, to find oil in commercial quantities.

The directors have had laid before them particulars of a large oil concession in Venezuela, and are now looking into the business. The cost of examination and report thereon would be defrayed from the company's funds. Should the report prove favourable, it is proposed that this company should (with a view to operate the concession) promote a subsidiary company in which as vendor this company would have a substantial interest. Meeting, Winchester House, August 1, noon.

The Third International Samples Fair will be held at Zagreb from April 27 to May 5, 1924.

DUNLOP TYRES AND FOREIGN COMPETITION.

Speaking at a luncheon given at the works of the Dunlop Rubber Company at Birmingham on July 23 to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the grant of the first Dunlop pneumatic tyre patent, Sir Eric Geddes, chairman of the company, said that their publicity made a special feature of British tyres for British cars, and for every other car in Great Britain, and they hoped in Ireland. Approximately, 95 per cent. of British cars standardised Dunlop tyres to-day. He honestly believed that there was no tyre to-day equal to the Dunlop best, just as there was no golf ball to-day equal to the "Maxfli," which was also Dunlop's best. Owing to the tariff arrangements of other countries they had been forced to manufacture abroad, in France, Germany and America, apart altogether from the Dunlop factories in the Dominions and Japan, but America with her enormous production, and the Continent (Germany, France and Italy) with their depreciated exchanges and no tariff on tyres into this country as there was on motor-cars, could, with the low wages paid, and low taxation compared to their burdens, put tyres into this country cheaper than the British tyre manufacturers could make them, and with every drop in exchange that position became more accentuated. It followed that the company could, in fact, import tyres to this country from their French and German factories, and make more money than they could upon the same tyre manufactured in Birmingham, and this in spite of the greater efficiency of the Birmingham worker. Needless to say, they did not do so. Every tyre sold in this country by them was British built, but there were markets in Europe and elsewhere where they were absolutely cut out from supplying, as they used to supply from Birmingham, because of the exchange difficulty and tariffs against them. Was it too much to ask that the British motorist should be asked to insist upon having British-made tyres, unless he was satisfied for himself that he could not get as good value for his money as he could for foreign tyres? That was all that the British tyre manufacturers asked of him.

NEW COMPANY.

Orient Company.

The Orient Company, Ltd., has been registered with a capital of £52,575 in 6s. shares to acquire the undertaking of the Orient Company, Ltd. (incorporated in 1890), and to carry on the business of manufacturers of vegetable products, etc. The first directors are:—A. M. Asquith, director Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Ocean Accident Guarantee Corporation, etc.; C. E. P. Fowler, director Saunders Garage Co., Ltd., and Fred W. Millington, Ltd.; A. Bennett, director Mackie Fowler and Co., Ltd.; A. R. Clarke, Waverney, Lucastes Avenue, Haywards Heath, director Orient Co. (Danube), Ltd., and R. L. Matthews, managing director Orient Co.

ROUMANIAN SECURITIES.

In the House of Commons on July 18 Brigadier-General Spears asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs it he would consider discussing with the Roumanian financial delegation the taking by the Roumanian Government of such measures as would tend to re-establish the confidence of the British public in Roumanian securities.

Mr. McNeill: The Roumanian Finance Minister has now left this country, but during his visit to London his attention was drawn to the importance of taking steps to improve Roumanian credit in the eyes of the British public.

The production of the Dacia Romano Company for June amounted to 956.70 tons.

Cyprus Oil Trust.—Cable advice from Fyzabad, Trinidad, announces that 40 feet of oil sands have been encountered in the company's No. 1 well, at 1,640-1,680 ft. The production from this oil sand is now being tested.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 638—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Treaty of Lausanne.

Active rejoicing over the conclusion of peace at Lausanne has been confined to Turkey. Of the Great Powers none, the Turks may rest assured, resents their success in the council chamber. If the plans of the Allies in the early stages of the Conference did not conform with the final draft of the Treaty, it was not because they wished to restrict the national liberty of the Turks in any way, but because they desired, in the interests of Turkey, to see that liberty developing on lines that would give the Turkish people the maximum benefit. The Angora Government had other views; it was resolved to be the sole arbiter of Turkey's destiny in every detail, and the present Treaty is the result. For the Allies, however, there are very practical advantages in the Treaty even as it stands. Apart from the re-establishment of the moral equation in the Near East, Great Britain will be able to withdraw her forces from Turkey and to reduce the garrisons in Irak and Palestine. Although much of the agitation in India over the Turkish question was prompted by political considerations, there can be little doubt that British prestige throughout the East has suffered from the bad handling of that question. In all reputable quarters the Treaty will have removed the former misgivings, and British-Indian relations can hardly fail to benefit.

The Aga Khan's Message.

A striking and statesmanlike lead to the Moslems of India has been given by the Aga Khan, and it is to be hoped that his Highness's message will receive all the closer attention, because during the last few years he has been inclined to identify himself with the misgivings felt by the rank and file of his co-religionists over the supposed British attitude towards the Turks. Writing from Lausanne, the Aga Khan emphasises the fact that for the first time in history a Treaty has been signed on behalf of a Mohammedan nation upon absolutely equal terms with the Great Powers of the West. The settlement is "highly satisfactory," and the freedom obtained by the Turkish National State is complete. The Turks owe this settlement, the Aga Khan continues, to their own sacrifices, courage, and fortitude, but they owe it also "to the good will of the peoples of Great Britain and France." To Moslems in India and in other parts of the British Empire or in mandated territories he declares it to be his belief that the leading statesmen of Turkey now sincerely wish to be on good terms with Great Britain as well as with France, and he warns them that nothing should be done to embitter the new relations now beginning between Great Britain and Turkey. The message adds: "Instead of the Khalifate movement, which is out of date and can serve no useful purpose, the Mohammedans of India ought to try to help Turkey to bind her wounds and to recover her lost prosperity. The best advice I can give to all Moslems, both in India and elsewhere, is to do their utmost to assist this new national Mohammedan State in its hour of need. This can best be done, not by talking politics, but by taking practical steps. . . . Turkey is on the threshold of a new era. Her leaders do not want us to make more bad blood between her and the Western Powers. Let us, therefore, leave politics alone, and turn ourselves to the task of offering such help as we can to the new State, which will assuredly become the brightest star in Islam." Eminently sound advice, as well as instructive in its admissions.

Greeks and Armenians in Turkey.

There is practical common sense in the plea put forward by some of the Armenians themselves to be spared further interference by the Western Powers in the relations between Turks and Armenians. A dignified appeal was made to the Turkish Delegation at the Lausanne Conference that the non-Moslem races of Turkey should henceforth receive satisfactory treatment, and there for the present the matter should end, until the Turks have had time to show their intentions towards these peoples. The intervention of the Powers has invariably compromised the position of the Armenians in Turkey, and, if repeated at this juncture, may well have the same effect. On the other hand, our Constantinople correspondence during recent months has made reference to a *rapprochement* between Armenians and Turks, and it is at least a possible development that the Turks, when they

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realise that the safety and integrity of Turkey are no longer threatened by the intrigues of their subject races, will adopt a humaner and more sensible attitude towards these. If the Greeks left in Turkey can also reassure the powers that be that they too have accepted the logic of events, and, having done with political aspirations aiming at the subversion of the Turkish State, intend to devote their energies to their own material well-being, which involves the corresponding progress of Turkey, they will not only fare better themselves, but may also hasten the day when Turkish prejudices against the presence of Greeks in Asia Minor will be abandoned.

Greece and the Treaty.

The sympathy that will be widely felt for Greece at this time will be accompanied by the reassuring reflection that the conclusion of the Lausanne Treaty leaves her free at last to devote all her attention and energies to the task of putting her house in order. Demobilisation of the army has begun, and a General Election is promised for October. M. Zaimis, Greece's "safe man," has been offered the leadership of a new political group comprising the more moderate elements of both the Venizelist and the anti-Venizelist parties, and is to give his reply to the offer this week. This movement is at least an earnest of the Revolutionary Committee's desire to fulfil the conditions which Great Britain has made indispensable to the resumption of diplomatic relations—that free expression should be given to the wishes of the people, and that the domination of Greek politics by the Committee should be terminated. M. Zaimis' acceptance would probably imply that he was satisfied with the genuineness of the Committee's intentions. Greece, it is to be feared, however, has a long way to go before all the political bitternesses aroused during the last few years are finally laid to rest. Yet it will be only when they are that she can resume her onward march of material progress.

The Problem of Hungary.

It would be a great mistake to imagine that the debate on Hungarian Reparations in the House of Lords was prompted by memories of Magyar hunting-boxes and of the pleasant manners of the Magyar nobility. We prefer to read into it a genuine desire to clear up a definite portion of the mess that the War has left behind in Europe. Because France has embarked on a certain line of policy in regard to Germany, there is no reason why a number of minor countries should be allowed to perpetuate mischief in another part of the Continent. Unfortunately, French action has hitherto paralysed the moral strength of the Entente, with the result that Balkan and Central European affairs have been left largely to their own devices, and that part of the Continent suffers accordingly. Now that Great Britain has seen fit to recover her liberty of action in regard to German Reparations she may as well extend the salutary process by resuming her position as friend, philosopher, and guide to the Balkan States. There should be no need to act upon the suggestion that monetary assistance should be withheld until each State showed a measure of reasonableness. A greater display of interest in Balkan affairs and closer attention to their problems would quickly rehabilitate Great Britain as a valued mentor in that part of the world.

The Little Entente and France.

France may have a sound case for her policy towards Germany; but there can be no excuse for extending the same treatment to a minor State, such as Hungary now is. The Governments of the Little Entente will do well to ponder the weighty words uttered by Lord Curzon in replying to the questions put to the Government in the House of Lords on the subject of Hungarian Reparations, and they should compare the constructive policy in regard to Central and South-Eastern Europe for which Great Britain stands with the purely negative policy championed by the French Government. Hungary's behaviour may not be entirely above reproach, but a sense of proportion is required, even if more generous sentiments are unattainable. The harm that Hungary can do her neighbours by entertaining sinister designs upon them is negligible; the consequences of her financial collapse would be serious and widespread. In these circumstances how can the Governments of the Little Entente expect Great Britain to share their alarm because one more Magyar confesses himself an unrepentant Monarchist? Yet they meet with sympathy for their nervousness in Paris, and are encouraged in a policy which can only continue indefinitely the curse of depreciated currencies.

Egypt and the Hejaz.

It is to be hoped that Egypt enters upon her new era of independence equipped with a sense of humour. If she does, she will be the first to admit that King Hussein is "one up" in the encounter now on the *tapis*. Undeterred by the loss of the £8,000 subsidy, and by the return of the Egyptian official pilgrimage with the Holy Carpet, the King of the Hejaz has secured a carpet of his own ordering, has had it conveyed with great ceremony to Mecca, and the pilgrimage has proceeded according to plan. With this new carpet, or black brocade veil, the Ka'aba in Mecca will now be covered for the next ten or eleven months, and there will be time for the quarrel between the Hejaz and Egypt to be amicably adjusted. It is not in the interests of Islam that there should be any serious controversy at this time involving the Holy City. The disputants may be tempted to gain support for their respective views outside their own countries, and there will be a danger of the Moslem world being divided at a moment when it is essential that each State should be looking after its own affairs, and not indulging in quarrels abroad.

The Week in India.

The past week brought an unusually copious supply of news affecting India, and much of it was good, but a few items were rather disquieting. The best news is that the monsoon has become really vigorous. As so often happens, July has falsified the fears of June, and we can look forward hopefully, though, of course, not confidently, to August and September. In political regions the influence of Lausanne is already beginning to appear, and it is quite probable that His Highness the Aga Khan's appeal to Indian Moslems to drop the Khalifate movement, to which reference has been made above, will be effective, not so much because it is eminently reasonable, as that it comes at a moment when many Indians are seeking an excuse for evacuating a position which has become untenable. In this connection it is satisfactory to see that the Eed celebrations have apparently passed off without serious disturbances, except in one locality, though we fear the result is due more to the efficiency of the police administration than to any relaxation of the tension between the different communities. Finally, we may note that the Legislative Assembly has been in one of its good moods for most of the week, and has done a reasonable quantity of useful work.

India and Kenya.

One of the disquieting features to which we have referred is the intransigent attitude of Indian poli-

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ticians towards the Cabinet's decision on the vexed question of Kenya. The question itself lies outside the orbit of this journal, but, looking at its purely Indian side, it appears to us that the decision offers to Indian settlers adequate protection in practice against the real dangers which at one time threatened them, and we think it would have been the wisest course to put facts before feelings, and see how the settlement works out; but, however that may be, we can find no possible justification for launching a campaign of ineffective protest. As an instance of sheer futility, we may take the proposal that India should withdraw from the Empire Exhibition. Indian support for the exhibition has come from people with things to sell, who consider it an excellent chance of enlarging the market for their wares. If India should refuse to participate, the exhibition might possibly lose a little, but Indian industry would lose a great deal. Possibly when the politicians who make such proposals have had time for reflection they will recall the Indian tradition that, in a family jar, you cut off the nose of the offender, not the nose of some third party, and still less your own.

The Sikh Ferment.

The other disquieting item in the Indian news is the apparent determination of the malcontent Sikhs to force an open conflict with the Punjab Government on questions which can by no possible ingenuity be represented as religious. There is probably much truth in the view, which is now apparently gaining ground in Simla, that at the back of this agitation lies the fear of a strong but slow-witted people that they may fall under the domination of the quicker intellects of other parts of India. One may sympathise with the aspirations to be masters at home, but surely the methods which are being adopted are the stupidest it is possible to conceive. The balance of forces in the Punjab is such that the Sikhs could reasonably hope to dominate the administration, and their obvious interest is to make the Provincial Government so strong that it can stand up to the "Madras lawyers" and "Bombay moneylenders," whom they dread. As a matter of fact, they are doing their utmost to paralyse their Government, and they will have only themselves to thank if the interests of India should compel the Central Administration to take them actively in hand.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Naval Air Service.

The old controversy between the Admiralty and the Air Ministry as to the position and status of the Naval Air Service has again broken out, and this time more virulently than ever. The Navy, of course, wants its branch of the Air Service under its own control; it wants its men to be naval from start to finish—a naval airman, that is, should be first and last a sailor, so that when he leaves the air he can return to the sea. Against this view the Committee of Imperial Defence have decided that the Air Service, including the Naval Air Service, should be under one control—that of the Air Ministry.

Most extraordinary rumours have been travelling about over the matter, such as the threat of resignation by the Sea Lords if the Admiralty does not get its way. But this and other similar things may be dismissed as nonsense or bluff. Yet beneath all the pettiness and jealousies to which the occasion has given rise, there is a very real and serious divergence of opinion—a divergence on which the layman dearly loves, but is really incompetent, to pronounce. We learned in the War how difficult the matter of control could prove, and our land and sea and air forces are now so much members one of another that complete self-control on the part of one inevitably affects adversely the others. One suspects that high tradition and consideration of prestige may be counting for a little too much in this question.

In any case, we shall soon know, for Mr. Baldwin is expected to make a statement on it to-morrow. Most people are taking it for granted that the Admiralty will get its own way.

Parliamentary Propaganda.

During the War we fell into the vile state of mind in which truth did not take place as a high virtue; in other words, we tolerated propaganda. As soon as the War was over most of us dropped that attitude, and, indeed, came wearily to suspect the accuracy of anything "official." The Government, too, we hoped, was dispensing with the method known as "doping the Press," which in Mr. Lloyd George's balmy days, was raised to a fine art; but last week our complacency was very rudely disturbed when we had foisted upon us the most flagrant of "puffs" of the Postmaster-General, Sir L. Worthington-Evans. Sir Laming Worthington-Evans promptly denied knowledge of the origin of the "puff," but the publication of it has done him no good.

There can be no doubt that the publicity sections of all Government Departments should be destroyed, for the practice of "boosting" special persons or things is not only extremely repulsive, but perfectly ineffective now—we provisionally assume the valuelessness of a statement manifestly issued from a Government Department (manifestly, because none of them can conceal their exquisite style). Publicity agents are everywhere the devil; puffed officials are either unscrupulous or insufficiently acquainted with the work of their underlings; and, in view of the wide recognition of these facts, the fumigation of the departments has become a matter of urgent necessity to our pride and self-respect.

The Penny Post

It would seem that Government officials have recently been vying with each other in pessimistic passages. We hear, first, that trade is bad and is going to be worse, and that unemployment will

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increase, and now, a few days ago, we have from the Postmaster-General a gloomy account of his department. He had to admit that he had made a profit of five and a-half millions, but, even so, would give no hope of a return to the penny post. His argument seemed to rest on the fact that his business increased only by 12 per cent. after the postage was reduced from 2d. to 1½d. But if only he knew how we long for that penny post again! Three-halfpence is a chilly, unromantic sum; naturally, no one wants to write letters which conclude with so deliberate and mathematical an act as sticking on a three-halfpenny stamp. We are well rid of the worry and calculations (and loss of temper consequent on the absence of half-pennies) that the omnibuses used to put us to with their three-halfpenny fares; and no one has heard of any financial hardships accruing to the bus companies. Sentiment and utility are alike on the side of the penny post, and no doubt some day the State will warily follow where the private firms have already trodden.

The Legend of Blackheath.

A most remarkable thing happened last week which will interest cricketers the world over: Surrey beat Kent at Blackheath. No sportsman, and particularly no cricketer, disbelieves in the existence of luck; some grounds are always good for him, some always bad. And if there ever was a ground the properties of which could not, in the eyes of both Kent and Surrey men, possibly change, it was Blackheath. The last time that Kent lost there was in 1897—far too long ago for any member of either of the present teams to remember. But right from the start of this game one could see, first, the superstition, and then the spell, of the place being broken. Surrey pulled out their finest game, and Kent (not a strong side this year) were correspondingly unskilful. Luck may have been against Kent, but, without doubt, they were beaten on the merits of the game.

One of the game's great superstitions, then, has gone, but the fact will not lessen the superstition of luck, which is really the essence of the game. Half of what is called the "glorious uncertainty" comes from the wayward meandering of luck, and in a game where skill is so nicely balanced by fortune immortal popularity is assured.

The Port of London.

London is to be an ocean port for passengers—staggering news, but true. The Port of London Authority is about to undertake a wonderful scheme of development, which, besides doing many other things chiefly in connection with merchant shipping, will make Tilbury a convenient place for the embarkation and disembarkation of ocean passengers. When the Tilbury Docks were opened, in 1886, the largest vessel to be accommodated was 485 ft. in length and had a beam of 46 ft.; now we have White Star liners, like the Majestic, 915 ft. long and 100 ft. broad. Everyone, of course, says that this persistent increase in the size of vessels must stop, but the Port of London Authority is taking no chances, and contemplates building a lock 1,150 ft. in length and 130 ft. in breadth, with thirteen berths!

To enable this scheme to be realised the Government are advancing a sum of 4½ millions sterling for a period of thirty years, the rate of interest being 3½ per cent. It is good news from every point of view, but especially in consideration of the unemployment which seems to be ever with us.

An Airship Service.

At length the Government has decided to accept in principle the scheme for an Imperial Air Service, and the decision may well become historical, because if, as the designers of the scheme claim, India can be reached by airship in three days and Australia in seven, our Imperial communications will be quickly revolutionised. The airship during the War got a very bad name, and its military value is nowadays scarcely discussed. Bad luck, moreover, has attended the fate of many airships since the War. But a reasonable degree of safety seems to have been obtained by the building of mooring masts and the surrounding of the inner gasbags with a layer of non-inflammable gas; in any case, the Government has committed itself to the main proposition of Commander Burney (the inventor of the paravane during the War), though the details have yet to be agreed upon.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Near and Middle East Association was held on July 26 at 64, Queen's Gate, by kind invitation of the Dowager Lady Boyle. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen presided. Sir Edward Boyle, the first speaker, took the outlook in Bulgaria as his subject. He pointed out that the new régime was not a government supported only by the old parties. There was a strong reaction in the country against the old parties, and a general desire to start with a clean slate. He considered that the Government was anxious to administer the country justly. Its future, however, depended on the extent to which it could command the support of the moderates of the Agrarian Party. After a reference to a Bulgarian outlet to the Ægean, Sir Edward Boyle said that he looked forward to the future of Bulgaria with tempered optimism, and he reminded his audience that there could be no peace in the Balkans until the Macedonian question was settled.

Mr. C. Frank Whittall, speaking with the experience of forty years in the Near East, testified to the admiration which the Turks had always had, and still had, for the British. He considered that if we treated them honestly and fairly in the future our influence five or ten years hence would be as predominating as it had been in the past.

The third address was given by Mr. H. Charles Woods, who briefly reviewed the situation in each of the Balkan countries. With regard to the Treaty of Lausanne, he pointed out that the Near and Middle East Association might well exert its influence to persuade the Turks not to be too extreme, but to show themselves worthy of the trust placed in them. In particular there should be fair treatment for Armenians and Greeks. Mr. Woods held that more attention should be paid in Great Britain to Albania.

Among those who took part in the discussion were Miss Durham, Sir Graham Bower, and Mr. Alfred Silley. Others present included the Lord Lamington, Sir Henry and Lady Burd, Prince and Princess Soumbatoff, Mehmed Konitza Bey, Sir John Miller, Sir William Clarke, Sir Ali Iman, and Kasim Pasha.

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The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, July 24.

The Bolshevist Round-Up.

When the Agrarians were thrown out of power it was fairly certain that the new Government would take active measures against the Communists. The latter had been allowed to do as they liked under the Agrarian régime. They were working in close *liaison* with Moscow, and several hundred well-paid agents were scattered all over Bulgaria. The Russian Bolshevists in Bulgaria were not very numerous, but they were able to disguise their activities under the cloak of the Red Cross. In 1922 several thousand Russian refugees in Bulgaria expressed the desire to return to their country. The Soviet Government was anxious that they should return, but insisted that a Mission should be allowed to enter Bulgaria in order to supervise the work of repatriation. This Mission was styled the Red Cross, and undertook not to indulge in any work other than repatriation. The High Commission for the Russian Refugees Section of the League of Nations collaborated with the Red Cross in that it arranged transport for the returning refugees. Unfortunately, the Red Cross did not confine itself to repatriation. The Bulgarian authorities found documents showing that the members of the Red Cross were seriously implicated in several Bolshevist plots and intrigues. The Government decided, therefore, that it could not tolerate the presence of the Red Cross any longer, and that it must be expelled. Four days ago the Mission was arrested, and its offices and its archives were seized. Yesterday the Mission was transported to Varna, whence it will proceed to Russia. The Bulgarian authorities have all along shown the utmost consideration towards the Mission.

No doubt the Soviet will protest very vigorously against the action of the Bulgarian Government, and will allege that the immunity usually enjoyed by the Red Cross has been violated. It is, however, necessary to emphasise that, as relations between Moscow and Sofia are already very strained, it was almost impossible for a Soviet Red Cross Mission to remain in Bulgaria. The action taken by the Government is generally approved, especially as it is announced that repatriation of Russians who wish to return home will be continued if circumstances permit.

Internal Politics.

The situation created by the events of June 9 is beginning to become clear. Although all parties, except the Agrarians and the Communists, promised their support to M. Zankoff's Government, this support was not sufficient so long as the bourgeois parties remained separate one from the other. The Democrats, Narodniaks, and Radicals have been negotiating for the past three weeks with a view to forming a federation of parties which will support M. Zankoff. This federation is not yet an accomplished fact, but it probably will be within a few days. M. Zankoff is entirely in favour of a united bourgeoisie, and if the parties do not make the federation themselves he and his friends will try to make it for them.

The Cost of Living.

Although the value of the lev is still appreciating, there is practically no change in the cost of living. Everything imported from abroad remains very expensive. Ordinary cloth is almost twice as dear as it is in London. All tinned goods are very expensive. Luxuries such as silks and wines are literally four or five times dearer than they are in England or France. The reason for this is that importers are still out for big profits. Prices will not come down until the public refuse to buy. Concerning purely local produce, the peasants will also have to be content with smaller profits. Things like bread, butter, and milk are very dear. The townspeople, and especially the State employees, have been suffering from the effects of the agrarian policy of favouring the villages at the expense of the towns. Now the townspeople demand that the Government make a thorough inquiry into the cost of living, in order that profiteers may be punished and prices re-adjusted all round.

The Turkish Peace.

Bulgarians view with a certain amount of cynical amusement the settlement arrived at between the Allies and Turkey at Lausanne. They point out that Turkey has by the use of force gained a multitude of advantages. She is better off than before the war, and Bulgarians naturally wish that they also had been in a position more or less to dictate terms. The wish is heightened by the news that the Lausanne Conference will come to an end without discussing the right of Bulgaria to obtain an Ægean outlet. M. Morfoff, Bulgarian Delegate to the Conference, has, it is true, succeeded in getting the Allies to insert a clause in the new Turkish Treaty whereby Bulgaria retains her right to an outlet, but there are no indications as to when this question will be considered. At the risk of repeating oneself, it is necessary to point out that Balkan peace can never be really assured until the Allies adopt the elementary principles of justice towards Bulgaria. They solemnly promised her an Ægean outlet, and they also guaranteed the protection of her Minorities. Their promises and guarantees have not been carried out. Is it a wonder that Bulgaria reads with apathy the declarations of European statesmen concerning their desire for world peace based on justice?

The Escape of Agrarians.

It is reported that two prominent members of the Agrarian Party have escaped from the Sofia Prefecture in which they have been imprisoned since June 9. Their escape was engineered as follows: Two civilians arrived in a car at the Prefecture. They bore papers from the Attorney-General demanding that Krum Popoff, the former Mayor of Sofia, and Kolucheff, a journalist and intimate friend of Stambolisky, should be brought to him at once. The Commandant of the prison, seeing that the papers were quite in order, and supposing that

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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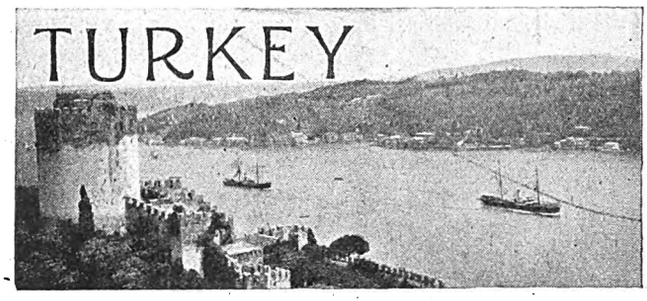
the Attorney-General desired to examine the two prisoners, allowed them to leave. A few minutes afterwards he became suspicious, and telephoned the Attorney-General. The latter denied having sent for any one, and it was then realised that an old trick had been once more successfully played. All that is known of Popoff and Kolucheff is that they left Sofia by the main Constantinople road.



Constantinople, July 24.

Turkey and Britain.

It was gratifying to see that at the concluding business session of the eternal Lausanne Conference Sir Horace Rumbold expressed the hope to Ismet Pasha that the traditional friendly relations between Turkey and Great Britain would gradually recover their old footing. It is a good thing to show that we bear no malice; we have consistently—almost meticulously—emphasised the fact that until the actual physical signature of peace we are technically enemies; such consistency is part of the make-up of ourselves, who pride ourselves on being a most law-abiding race. Now that peace is signed we are technically friends, and shall act as such, and honour the signatures of our plenipotentiaries to the bond. Just as before the conclusion of peace we did not play at being friends under the mask of an official enemy, so now we shall not act as enemies in the guise of official friends.

The Ignorance of Constantinople.

The present "provinciality" of Constantinople, to which I have referred in previous letters, has never been more obvious than it has been during the past fortnight. Not only has it been hopelessly ignorant of the state of negotiations during the last days of the Conference, but it is still without any news whatsoever of the state of affairs in Anatolia. The Constantinople Press is starved for news, and is reduced to "silly season canards." It is an unhealthy sign. The Constantinople Press, however indifferent it may be, is the only part of the Turkish Press to which foreign opinion has access, and it would be merely common sense on the part of the Press directorate at Angora to keep it supplied with good authentic news of the happenings throughout Turkey. For want of more substantial fodder, Constantinople circles have been feeding upon a weird selection of sensational rumours of serious outbreaks of disorder in the Eastern vilayets and the Pontus; the director of the Press at Angora will not deserve to be promoted to Ministerial rank, as is proposed, unless he can so organise Press affairs that the only important organs, *i.e.*, those of Constantinople, are in a position to perform the primordial function of the Press, *i.e.*, to supply news. The *Yeni Gun* is poor sustenance for breakfast, dinner, and tea.

Turkish Enlightenment.

As your correspondent does not hesitate to offer vigorous criticism of the Turks' actions whenever they seem to him unjust or unwise, so it would be unfair not to draw attention to their happier inspirations. There are indications that the Government is going to be reasonable on the subject of the application of the Dry Régime to Constantinople and perhaps Smyrna. That shows a certain amount of sweet reasonableness, and, incidentally, will profit the exchequer. Another point is the action of Angora in annulling an ordinance of the vilayet which abolished the teaching of French in the Turkish schools of Constantinople. Turkish parents very sensibly protested to Angora against this stupid example of short-sighted chauvinism, and the Minister of Public Instruction took action accordingly. Angora may have feared that the application of this ruling would have driven more Turkish pupils into the French schools: but, in any case, the encouragement of the teaching of foreign languages is sound policy, for, whatever the political aspirations of the future Turkey, and whatever group of States it may favour with its adhesion, it will have to do its business in a European language, and the youth of the country will have to get its education from European sources. The degree to which education in Constantinople is in the hands of Europe-inspired institutions is illustrated by the interesting figures just published by the Directorate of Public Instruction. There are 209 official Turkish elementary and secondary schools under the directorate: there are 687 unattached schools, of which only 67 are Turkish private schools; 99 are foreign schools, and the remainder are non-Moslem private schools. Although the University and several other senior institutions, such as the commercial school, the engineering school, and so on, are official Turkish establishments, it will be seen that the authorities have a great deal of leeway to make up before they

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can replace unofficial enterprise in the matter of education.

A Week of Festivities.

The present week is going to be a round of festivities. Yesterday the fête of the proclamation of the Constitution was celebrated with great displays of flags, triumphal arches, and illuminations. To-day is a holiday to celebrate the signature of peace, and for most of the rest of the week it is Kourban Bairam. The net result is that Turkish Government offices are going to be closed throughout the week except for a short period on Saturday morning. The banks are closing for two days only, and we devoutly hope that the unofficial busybodies who are clamouring for the puritanical observance of Friday as a day of rest will not extend their activities to the shops where we purchase the necessities of life.

PERSIA.

Teheran, June 23.

The Fall of the Cabinet.

As predicted in my last letter, the Cabinet has fallen, Mustaufi el Mumalik having remained in power just over three months, which has come to be practically recognised as the length of life of recent Persian Cabinets! After much discussion on the subject, the Mejliss decided to call the Government to the House, and the interpellation took place on 11th instant, nominally on a question of the Prime Minister's foreign policy. After speeches had been made for and against the Government by Soleiman Mirza and Modarres respectively, Mustaufi el Mumalik rose, and, in an able, scathing speech, he declared that, apparently, a Prime Minister, to succeed, must give and receive bribes, and as he was averse from doing this, the country must find someone less scrupulous to succeed him. Thereupon, without waiting for a vote to be taken, he called on his Ministers to leave the Mejliss, and they immediately proceeded to the Shah's Palace of Farahabad outside the town and laid their resignation before His Majesty. Meanwhile, all was commotion at the Parliament, both inside the House—which was packed by partisans of the Government and of the Opposition—and outside in the Parliament Square, where dense crowds had assembled to await the result of the impeachment, and fisticuffs were freely resorted to, people running about and shouting in favour of or against Mustaufi's Cabinet. The Minister of War, who was about to leave the Mejliss, was appealed to by Motamen ul Mulk, the President of the Parliament, to restore order, and the military and police thereupon proceeded to disperse the crowds, which they eventually succeeded in doing by the use of their bayonets and truncheons. Many people were thus wounded and injured and had to be removed to hospital, and all those who were within the Mejliss grounds were confined in the building all night to prevent further disorder; they were released the next day. The President of the Parliament and the Minister of War have been much criticised for their action in resorting to force to disperse the crowd, and the *Setareh Iran*, one of the leading daily papers, was suspended some days ago, presumably for these attacks.

The New Cabinet.

It was not until the 13th that it was announced that Mustaufi el Mumalik's resignation had been accepted by the Shah, who then called upon Mushir ed Dowleh to form a Cabinet. It will be remembered that the latter was Prime Minister at the beginning of 1922, forming a Cabinet just before the Shah left for his trip to Europe in January.

Mushir ed Dowleh has formed the following Ministry, with the exception of the Minister of Public Works, who has not yet been appointed:—

Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior	MUSHIR ED DOWLEH
Minister for Foreign Affairs	MOSSADEGH ES SALTANEH
Minister of Finance	ZOKA UL MULK
Minister of Justice	HAKIM UL MULK
Minister of Public Instruction	HAKIM ED DOWLEH
Minister of Posts and Telegraphs	FAHIM ED DOWLEH
Minister of War	SARDAR SEPAH
Acting Minister of the Interior	ETELA ES SALTANEH

The Cabinet is, on the whole, well received, and Mushir ed Dowleh is to be congratulated on his promptitude, thus avoiding the danger, which at one time was feared, of a protracted Cabinet crisis, leaving the country without a Government, in view of the dissolution of Parliament, which, having run its appointed term of two years, was yesterday dissolved without incident. There seems, to judge from personal observation, to be a general feeling of relief among most people that the fourth Mejliss has come to an end, the closing of which the local *Punch* portrays as a funeral procession!

General News.

The elections for the new Mejliss have been practically completed, but the counting of the votes will take some time, and Parliament is not expected to reassemble for some months.

On the 10th instant the Shah called a meeting, at the Palace, of Princes, notables, and priests, at which he inaugurated a relief fund for the inhabitants of the region round Turbat-i-Haidari rendered homeless and destitute by the recent earthquake, himself contributing £1,000 and the Crown Prince £400. The fund has so far reached a total of some £3,000, but is likely to be greatly increased.

A conference was recently opened at the Foreign Office presided over by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to arrange the terms of a Customs Convention between Persia and Russia, the Russian Delegation including Shumyatsky, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires.

Mr. Sayed Hassan Imam, former Judge of the Calcutta High Court, has been invited to represent India at the forthcoming meeting of the League of Nations.

Ghulam Ghaus Khan and Abdul Samad Khan are the two Secretaries of the Afghan Legation. Aziz-ur-Rahman Khan is absent. Business communications should be addressed to Abdul Samad Khan, Second Secretary.

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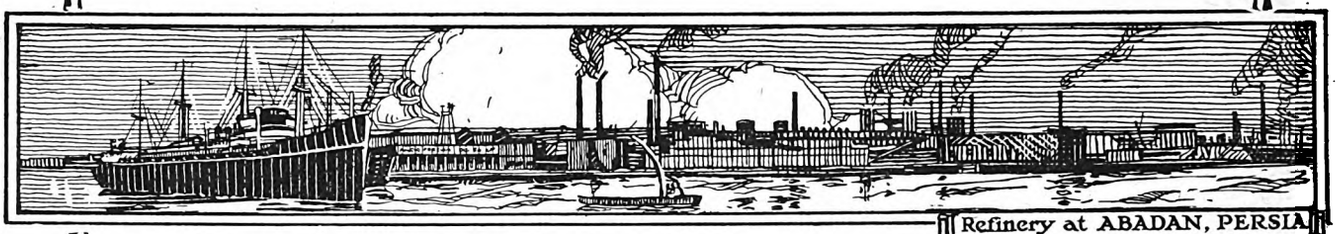

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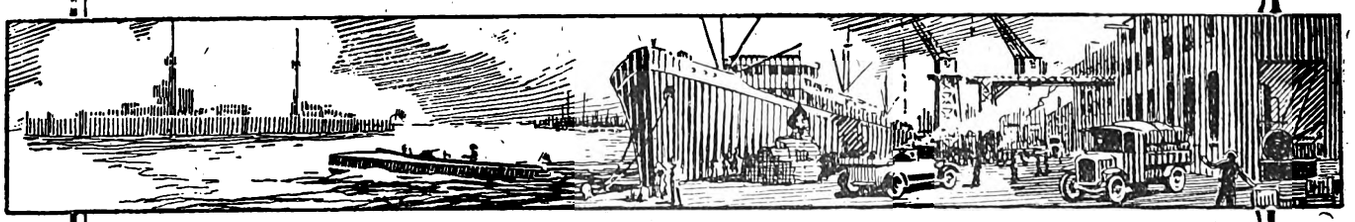

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Egypt.

In the *Morning Post* of July 20 a writer, who styles himself "An Egyptian Patriot," writes on the subject of "Egypt of To-day." He begins by stating that the political movement in Egypt during the last four years is based on anything but patriotic motives, and that the cry for "independence" is an unreal one. Passing to the question of whether Egypt can safely dispense with the services of Englishmen, he asserts that with all previous foreign Governors of Egypt the aim has been to suck the very life-blood of the hopeless natives. Opposition to the English is really based on three things: hatred of Christians, fanaticism and the desire to create a new Khalifate in Egypt, and the just and incorruptible methods of the English. He then comes down to the question of a Zaghloul régime:—

> But what will become of the country if the Zaghloulites should succeed? It will be governed by destitute lawyers and ruthless students, who will drag the country into anarchy at the head of the blind fellaheen, who are at this moment ready to jump into the abyss of Bolshevism, as they have been during the last two or three years very badly treated by their merciless landlords. Our troubles will only come to an end when Egypt once more enjoys a benevolent bureaucracy like that of Lords Cromer and Kitchener.

In short, his conclusion is that England must at once return to Egypt:—

> It will be disastrous for Egypt and England to let matters drift as they are now doing. It would be wise and courageous to admit that the political experiment advocated by some sincere but shortsighted Englishmen has failed, and that England must once more feel that it is her *duty* to protect the prosperity and progress started by her sons in Egypt. If England does not at once understand the situation, or if she be reluctant to take over the responsibility of administering this country, she will find it, in a very short interval, a bankrupt and a devastated country requiring Herculean efforts to reform. The people in Egypt have become thoroughly tired of politics, and it is the duty of England to save the "backbone" of Egypt from the grip of the parasites; otherwise the Empire's highway will become a nest of Bolshevism and anarchy.

The *New Statesman* of July 21, after pointing out that the abolition of martial law and the passing of the Indemnity Act have not given the complete satisfaction that was hoped for in Egypt, states its belief that the fears of the Nationalist objectors are exaggerated, and that, instead of picking holes in the Indemnity Act, they should concentrate on winning the forthcoming elections. The difficulties confronting the Egyptian people do not, it says, derive from the possible abuse of the Act; they are of a different order:—

> The authority of the King under the new Constitution is great—perhaps it may prove to be dangerously great. The High Commissioner's powers may turn out to be great or small; we do not yet know exactly what they are to be. We do not know what are to be his relations to the King, nor the strength of the forces under his command, nor what control he is to have over Egyptian finances or in certain other departments of the administration. All these delicate questions are to be settled after the elections, when the new parliamentary régime is in complete working order, and we hope there will be no attempt on our part to whittle down the promised independence of Egypt. If there is, there will, of course, be trouble, and we shall have to give way in the end. But for the moment the task of the Egyptian democrats is to concentrate on the elections. If they get the sweeping majority they have predicted they will be in a stronger position to talk both to the British Government and to their own reactionaries.

Modern Abyssinia.

The July issue of *Outward Bound* contains an article by Major Henry Darley, R.F.A., on "Abyssinia of To-day." The writer, who was Frontier Agent in South-West Abyssinia, has a sorry tale to tell of the plight into which the country has fallen since the death of the Emperor Menelik. After briefly sketching the history of Abyssinia, in which he points out the fanatical Christianity of the Abyssinians, he comes to the time of the Emperor Menelik. Menelik, a remarkable man, not only pacified the country, but enlarged it, and, to a certain extent, modernised it. But with his death about ten years ago the whole thing fell in, and "Abyssinia has reverted to a state of savagery." Major Darley gives a vivid description of this reversion from his own experiences in the Southern and Western districts, inhabited by the Gallas and the Shangallas. These districts, once the richest part of Abyssinia, are now becoming a desert. Slavery there is rampant.

Major Darley concludes his article by insisting on the potential riches of Abyssinia. This country should, but for the exclusive policy of the Government, be the heart of North-East Africa; if there were any means of connection between it and Somaliland, Kenya, Uganda, and the Sudan, an enormous trade would immediately spring up. But while the Abyssinian Government persists, not only in keeping the foreigner from the country, but even in preventing his attempting to remedy any of their abuses, there is little hope. This aim of the Abyssinian Government is further assisted by the policy of England, France, and Italy, who have agreed to uphold the power of the Government. For the extinct races of Southern Abyssinia there is no hope, unless the League of Nations were to take the matter up, and even then it would be action alone that would count: "Talking is not the slightest use. Action is the only thing that counts in Africa."

M. Spyro Araouso, a member of the Cyprus National Assembly, has arrived in London. He is to submit the views of the Greek Community in Cyprus to the British Government concerning an Education Bill recently passed by the Legislative Assembly.

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Near East Bookshelf.

PATIALA.

"PATIALA: THE GREAT WAR." A brief history of the Services of the Premier Punjab State. Compiled from Secretariat and Other Records. (Printed by the Medici Society, Ltd., London, for private circulation, 1923.)

The name of the author, or the compiler, of this record does not appear, but it is, perhaps, one of the Patiala officials, at any rate, one who has had access to Patiala State papers. To those who know India, particularly to those who know the Punjab and the Sikhs, this record will be interesting reading. It shows how an Indian State, under the rule of a Prince who is descended from a long line of military ancestors, and, especially, who is the son of his father, the late Maharaja Rajindar Singh, was able, with the assistance of capable State officials, and, above all, with such magnificent material as the Patiala Sikhs at hand, to furnish no less than 28,000 fighting men to the British Army at a time during the Great War when every good fighting man was of the utmost value. The Maharaja himself was one of the first of the Indian Princes to place his own personal services and all the resources of his State at the disposal of His Majesty the King-Emperor. The Maharaja actually embarked and had proceeded part of the way to the front when he was compelled by illness to return to India, greatly to his disappointment. On his recovery the Maharaja took up at once the initiation of an arduous recruiting campaign within the limits of his State, which was so successful that in the end Patiala made the splendid contribution already mentioned. Not only this, Patiala supplied largely the equipment of her troops, and the Maharaja assisted the Government in various other ways—notably by a contribution to the Indian War Loan of 35 lakhs, or more than £200,000.

Chapters III. and IV. contain interesting accounts of the services of some of the Patiala troops in the field, and, to judge from the list of honours and rewards accorded them, given on p. 25, the troops must have done well. Here we should have liked to have seen given the names of the European officers who trained the Patiala men, and of those who accompanied them on service. Appendix 3 contains a biographical sketch, being an extract from an article by Lord Carnwarth (Loyal Rulers and Leaders of the East, 1922), in which we are glad to see praise bestowed on the late Maharaja Rajindar Singh, who fought for us on the North-West Frontier of India, and who first raised the Patiala Imperial Service Troops.

The book before us would have been better for the omission of the rather fulsome personal references to the present Maharaja. After all, facts speak for themselves, and the author should have remembered that "true fame demands not panegyric aid." The book has been well produced, save for the error of printing page 81 twice. There is an excellent likeness of the present Maharaja as a frontispiece, and there are some other good photographs to illustrate the period spent by the Maharaja at the different fronts.

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THE CRUSADES.

"THE CRUSADES." By Ernest Barker. (Oxford University Press. Price 2s. 6d. net.)

The service that the Oxford University Press are doing to the student, and, indeed, to any reader of general intelligence, by issuing their series of "The World's Manuals" is considerable, and this latest volume on the Crusades maintains the standard authoritatively set by earlier books. Though this particular book is, in the main, a reprint from the Encyclopædia Britannica, the republication of Mr. Barker's article is extremely timely. Ignorance of the East on the part of the West is perhaps a chronic reproach, but it ought, at any rate, to be dispelled in part by this series of manuals.

It is, perhaps, a little unfortunate that in this book Mr. Barker should have acted so purely as an historian and so infrequently as an interpreter of events. For from the history of the Crusades much can be learned that is of value on the relations now existing and to exist between the East and the West. The motives of action are, indeed, far different now from what they were at the time of the Crusades, but the struggle between East and West is a perpetual one, and few people believe in the possibility of a permanent alliance. Now it is religion, now race, that divides Europe from Asia: to-morrow it may be something else. But though temporary amity may be possible, real fusion seems one of the remotest things to be conceived. Yet impartially to study the respective actions of East and West, their reactions, and their inter-actions, is the only method by which understanding and peace can be achieved, and an easy start in such an endeavour may be made with this little book on the Crusades. Facts, after all, are the things that count—it was the ignoring of them that eventually forced upon Europe the peace of Lausanne—and it goes without saying, seeing that Mr. Barker is an Oxford historian, that all the facts about the Crusades are here in his article. The mastery of them may be a dry task, but it is an essential one to the intelligent student of Eastern affairs.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Constantinople, Gallipoli, and Asia Minor." By Roy Elston. With maps. (London: Thos. Cook and Son. 6s. net.)

"The Brahmin's Treasure." By C. E. Bechhofer. (London: Mills and Boon. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Shahnama of Firdausi." Done into English by Arthur George Warner, M.A., and Edmond Warner, B.A. Vol. viii. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

BRITISH RELIEF IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The work of the British Relief Societies in Constantinople has been so far successful that whereas in March last the death-rate among the Greek refugees was more than 1,000 a week, it is now practically normal, although the number of refugees has increased. The cost to the All-British Appeal has been £1,250. The Appeal is now negotiating for the evacuation of the refugees to Greece, where they could be placed in a settlement scheme and become self-supporting, and it now asks the public for financial assistance to carry the scheme through. Donations should be sent to the All-British Appeal, General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C.2.

A Ministerial Council in Roumania on July 25 agreed to the Soviet proposal that a mixed Commission should examine the question of the dredgers which have run aground on the River Dniester. A Note to that effect has been dispatched to Moscow.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 2 (New Style).
July 20 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 18, 1341 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 19, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir Robert Gardiner left London on July 30 for Scotland.

The Bulgarian Minister returned to London on July 28 from Lausanne.

Princess Antoine Bibesco arrived at Southampton last Saturday in the White Star liner Olympic.

The Minister for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes has left town for Vienna.

M. Boris Atanasoff, Attaché at the Bulgarian Legation, and Mme. Atanasoff have returned from the Continent.

The Aga Khan concluded his visit to London on July 24, and left for Deauville. He will return to London on September 30.

M. C. Fotitch, First Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Fotitch have returned to town from the Isle of Wight.

Sir Horace Rumbold, High Commissioner at Constantinople, and Lady Rumbold arrived last week on a short visit to Mrs. Arthur James at 3, Grafton Street.

His Majesty the King received at Buckingham Palace last Thursday Major R. H. Sheepshanks, Officer in Charge, and the King's Indian Orderly Officers, and took leave of them upon their return to India.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby returned to London on July 24 on leave from Egypt. He was accompanied by Lady Allenby and his Aides-de-Camp, Captain Hindley and Captain Critchley. Lord Allenby presided at the Third Army Headquarters Dinner Club annual dinner, held at Claridge's Hotel on July 31.

In celebration of the Moslem feast of Eed-ul-Zuha the Afghan Minister held a reception at the Legation last Thursday, when those present included the Ministers for Persia, Roumania, Hungary, Lithuania, and Albania, Syed and Mme. Ameer Ali, and the Moslem members of the Kenya delegation in London.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Mr. E. M. Dowson, the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, is retiring at the end of October from his post, and is being succeeded by Mr. R. S. Patterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Montagu are arranging to pay a holiday visit to India of a little over two months' duration at the beginning of next year. Mr. Montagu will first go to South Africa on a short business trip, and will be joined by Mrs. Montagu when he reaches Bombay in January.

The Bishop of Egypt and the Sudan has appointed the Rev. Reginald Palmer, Hon. C.F., now working at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, to be Archdeacon of Egypt and Sub-Dean of All Saints' Pro-Cathedral, Cairo.

Reuter's Simla correspondent reports that for the first time an officer belonging to the Indian Medical Service, Colonel Bowle-Evans, has been appointed Director of Medical Services, in the place of Lieut.-General Burtchaell. Hitherto the appointment was reserved for officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve the appointment of General Sir George F. Milne, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., D.S.O., Colonel Commandant, Royal Regiment of Artillery, as Aide-de-Camp General to the King, with effect from July 31, 1923, in succession to General Lord Rawlinson, G.C.B., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred of Miss K. A. Pears, daughter of the late Sir Edwin Pears, after a short illness, on July 16, at Bournemouth.

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Telegrams: "EASTAPROX, ESTRAND, LONDON."

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 1923.

WHERE THE SHOE PINCHES.

With the signature of the Treaty of Lausanne Turkey no longer occupies the centre of the Near Eastern picture. Her long diplomatic struggle is over; she has secured the cancellation of the Treaty of Sèvres and has been placed on an equality with the other nations of Europe. She must now be given time to see what she can make of her independence and the new conditions. The Allied Powers, it is to be hoped, will honour the spirit of the Treaty by refraining until the last moment from any attempt at interference with Turkish affairs. The conditions of peace must be observed; but let the Allies act as long as possible on the principle that the terms were based on their own resolve to give the Turks a fresh chance, and were not entirely dictated by the latter. Turkey for her part will have her hands too full with her own domestic affairs to yearn for any further spell of the limelight of Europe. During the protracted negotiations with the Allies a factitious prominence has attached to her foreign relations, and internal questions have been relegated to the background or have found a solution too easily to last, as a result of the national solidarity in the face of external pressure. The time has now come for foreign affairs to be put, as it were, into cold storage, and for the Turkish people to study domestic problems. It is clear that in such circumstances it will be better for the foreign residents in Turkey to do nothing, if they can help it, to divert the attention of the Turks from this testing of the new conditions. If the new order does not satisfy the Turkish people, it will be changed by them, and their own discontent is more likely to secure the improvements that the foreigners may need than will any action at this stage on the latter's part, while integrity and sovereignty are still words to conjure with in Turkey.

The quiescence of Turkey, however, although it marks the formal re-establishment of peace in the Near East, does not carry with it a settlement of the Near Eastern question. This, it is to be feared, will never be reached until there is a complete change in the attitude of the several countries in that part of the world. Taking their cue from France, but without the justification that she has, these States seem to consider that they have more to gain from the perpetuation of unsettled conditions than from the restoration of peace and good will. In no other way is it possible to account for the spirit of aggressive suspicion or declared hostility with which international matters are discussed in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The French have some reason to fear Germany; neither collectively nor individually have the Allied States in the Balkans anything to fear from either of the neighbour ex-enemy States, Hungary or Bulgaria. These two countries present a sharp contrast in the manner in which they have accepted the verdict of the Great War. The Magyars make no secret of their desire to kick against the pricks; but their plots and revolutions merely emphasise their impotence, and in no other part of the world would such nervous apprehension be shown by countries disposing of a million troops towards a people whose armed forces number only thirty thousand. The Bulgarians, on the other hand, have accepted the terms imposed upon them, have given ample indication of a genuine desire to cultivate good relations with their neighbours, and have by friendly discussion secured a revision of the reparations clauses of the Treaty in the light of common sense. Neither country, however, has received any encouragement from a neighbour. The Agreement of Nish between M. Stambolisky's Government and Yugoslavia did point to the possibility of better relations between the two countries; but it seems to have been based on the forcible suppression of the Macedonians, who are regarded as embarrassing by both. How far the refusal of the Entente Powers to redeem their pledge to Bulgaria of the grant of an outlet on the Ægean Sea is due to the antagonistic attitude of her neighbours is not known; the fact remains that this act of elementary justice has not yet been carried into effect. In the case of Hungary unreasoning hostility has gone so far as to prevent a settlement of the reparations question, with the result that the prospect of the Magyars' paying any sums at all, much less the amounts on which her neighbours are insisting, diminishes day by day. The chief blame attaches to the French Government, for allowing its representative on the Reparations Commission to defeat a sensible settlement by his casting vote. His action, however, was supported by the Little Entente, and does not, therefore, exonerate the latter.

The plea for a common-sense policy in the Near East is not prompted by any sentimental attachment to Magyars or Bulgarians. They may be all that they are painted or even worse; the fact would not affect the wisdom of treating them in such a way that at no point shall there be any unnecessary hindrance to the work of material reconstruction in the Near East. The financial situation in Hungary is a definite handicap to the economic progress of her neighbours; it has been brought about, at least to some extent, by the exaggerated fears and the hostility of the latter. Europe is entitled to find more political wisdom in the Balkans than she looks for in Turkey; but until some statesman or country can adopt a nobler and saner attitude towards a beaten and permanently weakened foe there would seem to be little to choose between Angora and the capitals of South-Eastern Europe. This week the Governments of the Little Entente have been in conference in Roumania. They will have had for their guidance a clearer picture than ever before of the consequences of French policy in the West. At the same time they will have noticed the steady trend of British policy, and it will be a matter for surprise if such a shrewd statesman as Dr. Benesh failed to point the moral. Czecho-Slovakia has already expressed her desire to be on as friendly terms with Hungary as she is with Austria; she has consistently given Bulgaria credit for good intentions. But the general attitude of the Little Entente has been suspicious and bellicose. If the Sinaia Conference is to be productive of good results, it must lead to a fresh orientation of the official policy of the Little Entente. The existence of the triple agreement is in itself ample guarantee for the absence of any aggression on the part of Hungary and Bulgaria. What is wanted, however, is a definite move to bring all the countries of South-Eastern Europe, without exception, into close political relationship, with a view to promoting the economic recovery of the whole region.

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THE BOSPHORUS.

By "X. N. O."

Not long ago the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles were the subject of daily reference in the Press, how that the Turks were occupying the coast line or were demanding complete control over this gateway to the East, and one was apt to become somewhat tired of the sound of the waterway's names. We little realise how great a weapon such control could be in the hands of any one nation—great because it decides the destinies of those Eastern European nations whose only maritime outlet is the Danube, and thence by the Bosphorus to the outer world. The Bosphorus is the rock upon which many a conference has split, and, doubtless, will remain a bone of contention till the end of Time.

Apart from its commercial and strategic importance to the Turk, it also holds a position in the traditions and superstitions of the people which has no parallel. To the traveller or reader the word "Bosphorus" always seems to conjure up visions of steep, green-clad, tree-covered slopes running right down to swift moving, shimmering blue waters, with range after range of purply-blue hills in the background, fading away into infinity. Alas! the slopes still remain—but the Germanic influence of the War years has dotted them with dreadful red and white rococo villas built in the worst style. These same blue waters, that hold so great a charm for the traveller, exercise an inconceivable control over Turkey's destiny in the mind of "the Turk in the street."

The Bosphorus normally flows from East to West, urged on by the waters of the huge rivers that flow into the Black Sea, the Danube, Don, and Dnieper; a swift-moving current, often running as strongly as four knots when aided by an easterly wind. Tradition in Turkey decrees that, as long as the Bosphorus behaves itself and flows in the right direction, no harm can come to Turkey from the Western World. This superstition is not unfounded on fact, and doubtless dates from the old days of sailing ships, when a current, such as flows in the Bosphorus and Dardanelles, was sufficient to impede greatly an avenging or conquering fleet's progress towards the Sublime Porte. In our own history we have the case of Sir John Duckworth's ill-fated expedition in 1807—which started, by some strange coincidence, on the same day and month as the even more disastrous attempt of 1915—an expedition which barely succeeded in forcing the Narrows, and only then after considerable loss.

In much more recent times the Bosphorus has played an important part in Turkey's history.

After the *débâcle* of Smyrna, in September last year, when Mustapha Kemal's victorious army threatened to envelop Constantinople, only the Bosphorus, and the Fleet it bore on the bosom of its current, barred the way. In the dark days that followed, when everything was looking most gloomy in Constantinople, to the amazement of the Turks, their current, which, save for an occasional hour of inconstancy, had flowed westwards for centuries, chose to misbehave.

Looking out of my window from the heights of Taxim, I was astonished to see the ships in the anchorage—a couple of British battleships, some French, Greek, Italian, and American warships, and the usual quota of merchant shipping—swung to a current setting eastwards. It is not unusual for the inshore currents to vary, but for the midstream current to reverse the order of its going was unheard of!

In face of the national crisis and the expected intervention of Great Britain, the "Turk in the street" took this exhibition of perverseness on the part of his beloved Bosphorus as an augur of ill-omen. If the current should no longer help them, then who should stay the hand of the infidels in the West? The atmosphere in the bazaars became electric with foreboding. In the interim, one night, the moon rose red—red as war! Yet another ill-omen!

The fear of the superstitious knew no bounds. With revolvers, rifles, and ancient cannon they opened fire on the offending and importunate planet. Whether they hoped, however, to bring it down, or just put out its light, no one knows—and all this in 1922! All night long they maintained this fusillade till law-abiding Christians in Pera and the suburbs began to wonder if the threatened massacre, which was in everyone's mind, had at last come to pass. As may be expected, some of the bullets fired at the Blood Red Orb of Night found human billets. In spite of his superstitions, the innate humour of the Turk would never allow him to miss such a golden opportunity of settling a private racial or religious quibble. The moon offended him: superstition decreed that the bullet had to be fired, but why waste it on space?

At length, on the fifth day of the Bosphorus's perverseness, their fears were realised. The Infidel from the West came knocking at their gates. Like long, dark shadows destroyer after destroyer from the Atlantic Fleet—sent to reinforce the Mediterranean squadron—slipped into the Bosphorus and passed slowly up to its anchorage—a seemingly never-ending stream of menace.

Still the current persisted in aiding the Infidel. Battleships arrived, even more threatening in appearance than the snake-like destroyers; ships brought aeroplanes; and transports began to arrive—transports which poured forth stalwart men in khaki by the thousand—men in a uniform the Turk had learned to fear and respect but eight short years before. Things were beginning to look too black altogether.

A hasty meeting was held by the elders of the Church—green turbaned *hodjas* and white-bearded *imams*—and it was decided that the Evil Spirit that was bewitching their natural protector, and thereby threatening further ruin for the Ottoman Empire, must be appeased in some way.

Accordingly, a pilgrimage was made to the water's brink, and there the Spirit was exorcised—with complete success.

On the following morning the Bosphorus, tired of its contrariness, turned round again and flowed the proper way—from East to West—but the ships of the Infidel had got there and had anchored!

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE LOAN TO GREECE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—Your reference to the International Loan to Greece, to which the Council of the League of Nations has decided to lend its support, seems to leave a doubt as to the most advantageous method to be adopted in its use and object.

The main problem seems to be to afford some relief for the millions of refugees that have been thrust into Greece from Asia Minor and Thrace, and at the same time to provide some useful and beneficial work for the improvement of the country generally. From observations I have made and experiences I have had in the northern parts of that territory and Macedonia generally, it would appear to me that much money could be quite well devoted to large and small irrigation schemes. There are vast plains which, during a few months of the year, appear quite fertile, but, owing to the lack of irrigation, become parched and barren wastes for the remaining hot months. The sources of water supply, coming as they do down from the mountains through winding ravines, entirely disappear early in the year, but, nevertheless, still continue to flow subterraneously at some little depth below the bed of the streams.

Concrete dams built in well-chosen places up stream will hold back these subterraneous supplies, and, forcing the water to the top, as much as one to two million gallons per day can be saved in quite moderate-sized ravines, and this, passing via aqueducts over to the plains below, would convert thousands of acres of barren waste into fertile and valuable land.

Short spurs of Decauville track could be run from these places to connect and join up with the nearest railways for transporting the products to the port of Salonika, which is a ready market for such commodities as can be grown. Really good tobacco plants are grown already in some districts there, but are dealt with only in a primitive manner. Likewise the silk industry, at present a village enterprise, could be further extended on a large scale by the cultivation in mass of the mulberry tree and cocoons. The vineyards, such as they are, certainly flourish, but not nearly to the extent possible with a little help from irrigation.

A typical "dam," which I constructed with the aid of native labour, complete with its sluices and aqueducts, can be seen just above the village of Langavuk, intended to irrigate the vast plain between the two large lakes Beshik and Langaza, on the road to Stavros.—I am, etc.,

Charles J. Melvin, F.S.I., R.E.

23, Great Winchester Street, E.C., July 19.

IAZIRAT EL ARAB.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—I hear from Palestine that the Mecca newspaper, *Al-Kibla*, puts forward the claim to the Orontes as the northern boundary of what is called Iazirat el-Arab, or Island of the Arabs.

This claim, I beg to state, is not in accordance with the classical definition of that boundary which is definitely fixed as "towards the Sea of Syria"; consequently any part of Syria remains outside of the boundary in question.—I am, etc.,

July 23. A. Sefi.

THE EARTHQUAKE IN PERSIA.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—You were good enough a few weeks ago to publish a telegram which I received from the British Minister at Teheran appealing for British contributions to the relief of the widespread distress caused by the earthquake at Turbati-Haidari. I have now received a further appeal from the Minister emphasising the urgent need of help. The fund which I have opened has already received some support, including a subscription of £25 from this Society; but further donations are desired. They should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer of the Society, care of Imperial Bank of Persia, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C.4.—I am, etc.,

Lamington,
President, The Persia Society.

The Persia Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1,
July 27.

Wills recently published include that of Lieut.-Colonel Ernest Albert Churchward Matthews, D.S.O., I.M.S., of the Palestine General Hospital, Surafrud, Palestine, who died in a motor accident at Solomon's Pool, near Jerusalem, on April 11, aged 49, intestate, and left estate of the gross value of £10,186, with net personalty £10,076; and of the Hon. Mrs. Lucy Anna Maria Storrs, of The Deanery, Rochester, and formerly of Bury St. Edmunds, wife of the Dean of Rochester and mother of General Ronald Storrs, Military Governor of Jerusalem (net personalty £4,923), who left £5,165.

General Sir Charles Harington has recently written to the Secretariat of the League of Nations in Geneva to express his appreciation of the way in which the refugee problem has been dealt with in Constantinople.

During their visit last Thursday to agricultural institutions in Berne the members of the Turkish Peace Delegation discussed with members of the Swiss Federal Council the possibility of establishing permanent diplomatic representation between Turkey and Switzerland.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The British Industries Fair.

Next year's Fair is to be held much later than usual, the dates fixed being from April 28 to May 9. A good many weeks ago I drew attention to the obvious danger of holding the Fair before the British Empire Exhibition was in being, for it needs no demonstration that overseas buyers are not going to incur the expense of two journeys to this country in one year. The action of the authorities makes it certain that the Fair will suffer to a minimum extent from the competition of the Exhibition. Held at the same time, they should give a great impetus to British commercial endeavour at a time when it is most needed, for the Fair and Exhibition are not in any way similar in character, and the ground they cover will be different.

The Indo-European Telegraph Company.

The news that the Indo-European Telegraph Company's line will now again be available for international telegraph traffic marks a notable stage in the return to pre-war facilities of communication. The line runs to the Far East by way of Germany, Poland, Russia, and Persia, and the missing link has been the German section. The German concession has now been renewed for a period of eighteen months, and thus at long last the unwearying efforts of the directors of the company meet with success.

Russian Enterprise in Persia.

Russia's trade relations with Persia during the last year or so have had their vicissitudes. At first Russian commercial penetration was supremely successful, but a Customs tariff which pressed hardly on Persia's exports to her neighbour shook the belief of the Persians in the good faith of Russia, and this *faux pas* has taken a good deal of living down. Apparently the Russians are now under the impression that the last remnants of misunderstanding over the matter have passed. At any rate, they are very energetically proceeding with the good work of "improving" trade relations between the two countries. A large Russian trade delegation is at present visiting Persia, a new Russian bank is to be opened in Teheran, while the programme also includes an exhibition of Russian goods. Persia should be flattered by these disinterested attentions, but one wonders what she is going to get out of it all. The same thought may occur to the Persians one of these days.

Germany Aga'n.

A recent American report gives a further illustration of the fact of which we were so well aware before the War that no market is ever too small for the solicitous attentions of Germany. It appears that about a couple of months ago 200 pairs of German-made canvas shoes with chrome soles appeared in the Aden market, and proved very popular with the natives on account of their cheapness. To make the most of the market, the shoes were even "peddled" from door to door, and at the time the report was made not more than 50 pairs remained unsold. The shoes were originally sold at three rupees a pair, but later the price was raised to five rupees, and even at that it was well below the price of the British shoes of corresponding quality, which sell at eight rupees, and so one must assume that German shoes will keep the market, for the time at any rate. The incident is interesting both for the evidence it provides of German thoroughness and for the light it throws on the favourable position of Germany as a result of the exchanges.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The past year was one of exceptional difficulty for the Imperial Ottoman Bank. The Greco-Turkish War affected the whole of the Near East, and greatly contributed to the incidence of the trade depression in that region. Some falling off in the profits of the bank was, therefore, inevitable, and it must be regarded as extremely satisfactory in the circumstances that the bank should be able to show net profits of £176,140, as compared with £268,553 for the previous period.

The Shipping Slump.

At the annual meeting of Furness, Withy, and Co. the chairman, Sir Frederick Lewis, took a rather unpromising view of trade prospects. The past year has, of course, been a uniformly bad one in the shipping industry, which has been affected by the depression to a greater extent probably than any other branch of commerce. A very small proportion of the profits of Furness, Withy, and Co., Sir Frederick pointed out, were derived from the company's steamers. The effect of trade conditions on freight rates was such that it was only with the utmost difficulty that expenses could be paid, and even then it had been necessary for the company, in common with other shipping companies, to lay up a proportion of their own and associated tonnage. He went on to mention that the tonnage laid up at the thirty-six principal ports of the United Kingdom on July 1 amounted to 712,000 net tons, as compared with 546,555 tons on April 1. Unless there was an unforeseen improvement, he feared that that figure would be increased.

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THE PROGRESS OF PALESTINE.

Improving Financial Position.

It cannot be said that the many criticisms against the British relationship with Palestine find much justification in actual fact. In reality, the report on the administration of the country in 1922, which has just been issued, is quite an encouraging document. One does not find there a picture of a land "flowing with milk and honey," it is true; but there is placed on record a story of slow but steady and encouraging progress. The revenue has expanded, and if the expenditure has also increased, there is, at any rate, quite a substantial balance on the right side (even if allowance be made for the yield of taxes formerly allocated to the Ottoman Public Debt Administration), which is more than could be said for the year ended March 31, 1921. Trade was well maintained during the year, agricultural development went on apace, while progress was made in the development of transport facilities. Taken all round, and considering the external and internal conditions which had to be faced, developments seem to have been quite satisfactory, and the report generally gives no foundation for the view that the country is one in which an economic advance can only be purchased, if at all, at a great price. If only political considerations were not present to impose a stumbling-block to progress, it would be possible to be fairly confident as to the future of Palestine. Unfortunately, politics versus economics summarises the present situation, and it is entirely due to the preponderance of the former factor that developments have not been more rapid since the Armistice. No one who takes an unprejudiced view of the country can deny the benefit that has accrued to it from the help of Jewish capital, brains, and enterprise; but fear of Zionist ambitions has, unfortunately, alarmed the Arabs, and intensified the problems with which the country is confronted. Possibly there has been insufficient care exercised in the past as regards the selection of immigrants, to judge from the fact *inter alia* that in recent months there has been a considerable emigration of Jews from Palestine. As the country is still only at the very beginning of its development as an agricultural region, it follows that the scope for the varied industries of a civilised community outside farming pure and simple are bound to be limited as yet, and the field of employment (as we know the term) *ipso facto* restricted. The fullest recognition of that fact is essential, for nothing could be more unfortunate than the existence in Palestine of a considerable surplus of labour incapable of absorption because of the incapacity of the individuals to undertake agricultural work.

Turning to the statistics given in the report, it is to be noted that there was a very great increase in revenue for the year ended March 31, 1922, the total being £E2,312,243, as compared with £E1,108,528 for the period July 1, 1920, to March 31, 1921. With the exception of one item—rent of Government property—substantial increases were recorded under every head. Customs receipts rose from £E272,600 to £E623,273, licences, taxes, etc., from £E336,676 to £E758,144, fees of court or office, reimbursements, etc., from £E65,687 to £E150,496, posts, telegraphs and telephones from £E65,965 to £E121,222, and railways from £E318,503 to £E557,334. This record cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be said to bespeak an unhealthy state of affairs. It suggests *prima facie* the orderly pursuance of the road of peaceful progress towards prosperity. There was also a considerable increase on the expenditure side, the total rising from £E1,228,097 to £E1,881,108. Here again, with the exception of a few items, there was an all-round increase. There are substantial advances under such heads as posts, telegraphs and telephones, which stand at £E87,626 as against £E53,796, and railways, which have risen from £E305,677 to £E527,657, and similar services, whose expansion is a corollary of a country's development. The balance of revenue over expenditure was £E431,135 as compared with a debit balance of £E119,569. The revenue, it is to be noted, includes £E314,724, representing the yield of the taxes allocated to the Ottoman Public Debt Administration.

The commerce of Palestine in 1922 has already been dealt with at length in these columns, and it is therefore unnecessary to make any extended reference to it here. The total volume of trade showed a slight shrinkage on the figures of the previous year, but this is probably more than counterbalanced by the shrinkage in values, while the returns for 1922 do not include the import and export transit trade with Syria. The noteworthy fact is pointed out in the report that the prevailing world economic depression has not appreciably affected Palestine's trade. The reason for this is to be found in the special circumstances of the country. It has not had the experience of industrial regions, which have found their markets temporarily non-existent, fair outlets have been available for its staple products, while the military occupation and the influx of emigrants and capital has been a constant source of economic strength. The general conclusion to be drawn from the report is that careful administration has admirably succeeded with the task of reorganising and developing the country's resources, and that given favourable conditions the way is now clear for very considerable progress.

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Egypt.

Block-Notes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 25,000 block-notes. October 1.

Waggon Covers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of impermeable waggon covers. September 25.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Quiet but Firm.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ended July 20, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather quiet, although at the close prices have slightly improved.

There is again very little to say about the market. The statistical position is very strong, but the demand from abroad continues to be almost negligible and speculators, generally heavy losers, prefer to adopt for the time being a waiting policy. News from America regarding the progress of the crop is, generally speaking, favourable, and this has had its reflection on the distant positions the prices of which have recently been distinctly easier. Latest reports from the leading textile centres have been discouraging; American spinners have been curtailing their production, and in Lancashire much depression is still in evidence. On the Continent, with the Ruhr and the Reparations questions so involved and exchanges so depressed, not much trade activity can be expected. Egyptians in Liverpool have been almost unchanged; a large proportion of the daily spot sales is, we understand, for export account. This week's receipts amounted to 2,098 kantars, and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,629,877. Exports have this week amounted to 53,977 kantars, and the stock now stands at 1,126,611 kantars, against 1,178,490 kantars a week ago and 1,712,204 kantars a year ago.

Spot.—We have had a week of poor markets at Minet el Bassal and sales amount to about 3,200 bales, of which we estimate 2,200 bales of Sakellarides and 1,000 bales Uppers. Demand from spinners is very poor, and trade reports from abroad, with talk of curtailment by American spinners, are far from encouraging, but nevertheless there is no pressure to sell by holders, and cotton below F.G.F. is extremely hard to buy.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in. Prices of spot against contracts are without change except for Fair and Fully Fair, which are little easier but in very small supply.

Uppers.—The business has been mainly in medium and good grades, the lower grades being neglected, but, as in Sakellarides, scarce and dear. Prices of spot against contracts are rather easier than last week.

Brown and White are neglected; no business is reported in Brown, a few bales of White have changed hands at rather easier rates.

Crop 1923.—The Government has published its first report on the acreage of the crop of this year, the figure given being 1,460,022 feddans, of which 362,767 feddans for Upper Egypt and 1,097,255 feddans for Lower Egypt against a total of 1,800,000 feddans last year (corrected final Government figure). However, from private reports received from the interior it appears that the land planted under cotton this year is at least equal to that of last year. In spite of the fact that the crop is not progressing equally well in all the districts, on average, we think the development of the plant is rather satisfactory.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Steady Business Reported.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended July 25:—

Another quiet week has been experienced in this section of the trade, and no feature worthy of remark has cropped up. A steady business has taken place, which justly reflects the rather fortunate position of the Egyptian spinning section as compared with that of their less favoured brethren on the American side. The buying that occurred was obviously to satisfy immediate requirements, and although a little more c.i.f. business has been transacted in certain quarters, interest in forward cotton, and particularly for new crop shipments, remains just as apathetic as ever. The bulk of the inquiry has been for Sakellaridis, 15¾d. to 16¼d., and buyers have found an attractive selection to choose from in the docket cotton, which is at present being offered all round the market on a basis which is often reasonable as compared with the stale consignment cotton which generally forms the major portion of the stock at this season of the year

Cotton, very near (if not fully up to) the "good" mark, changed hands at 120 points on November—*i.e.*, 15.80d.—notwithstanding that the official quotation for good Sakellaridis stood at 16.70d. on the same day. Uppers have been pressed for sale for the most part, although, here and there, one meets with cotton which is firmly held at what appear to-day to be fancy prices. This cotton, of course, is more susceptible to the vagaries of the American markets than Sakellaridis, and the recent heavy declines in New York have seriously affected the basis. It is quite possible, however, that those who hold uppers now will have cause to rejoice that they did so before the new crop gets under way. Two more critical months remain before anything like a reasonably sufficient American crop can be assured, and the upper basis is certain to react speedily to any word of serious crop deterioration in the States.

More business has been done in Soudan cotton this week, the White variety being chiefly in request. A few lots of Tokar Sakellaridis have changed hands at between 17½d.-18d.; above these prices the cotton is given the cold shoulder. The customary inquiry for low cotton, 6d.-8d. and 10d.-12d., continues, but with only a moderate amount of business passing. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 20th inst. were returned as 5,062 bales. Total sales, 5,000 bales (includes 770 Soudan). Quotations are reduced 15 points, with the exception of Fair (in all qualities), which remains unchanged. Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day, 15½d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business still on Small Scale.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended July 28 states:—

There is no development to report during the past week, and business remains on an exceedingly small scale. The principal feature of interest has been the decided break in raw cotton prices in New York, resulting from a bout of selling which has taken place in that market, said to be mainly due to expectations of a crop large enough to remove the fear of any shortage for the time being. There is less talk here of artificial measures for buttressing the industry, and there is no doubt that prices are very gradually falling to the point at which the position will have remedied itself on sound economic lines.

Yarn.—Most spinners have experienced another disappointing week. Quotations are very patchy, with a falling tendency quite apart from the lower price of the raw material. The demand for yarn spun from Egyptian cotton, which had been of a much more encouraging character in previous weeks, has been less active in the past few days.

Cloth.—The lack of confidence in the stability of present quotations continues to act as a depressing factor, and a "hand to mouth" policy on the part of buyers is still in evidence. Turkey and the Levant have not yet responded to the better outlook due to the signature of peace at Lausanne, and only experience can show whether Lancashire will regain its former volume of business with these markets. India and China are disappointing, and the Home trade is quiet.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, there has been a decided break in prices in New York. Liverpool has endeavoured to withstand this with a certain amount of success, the fall here not corresponding to that on the other side. It must, however, be recognised that the present tendency is in a downward direction. The next report of the American Agricultural Bureau is due on the 1st proximo, and is awaited with much interest. In the meantime unofficial advices report the lack of much needed rain in certain parts.

A duty of 15 drachmæ per metric ton has been imposed on coal imported into Greece. This duty is only to be levied under the "General" Tariff, and coal may continue to be admitted free of duty under the "Conventional" Tariff.

A revised and illustrated edition of Miss Florence B. Low's book, "Openings for British Women in Canada," has just been published by the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62-65, Charing Cross, S.W.1, from whom it may be obtained post free on application. The little volume deals with every phase of women's activity in the Dominion, and contains a fund of information as to the cost of living and existing conditions in Canada.

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Oilseeds Weak.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in moderate request at unchanged prices. Tate's cubes have been done at 62s. 6d., London granulated has come to business at 58s. 1½d., while Lyle's granulated is 58s. 4½d. Foreign descriptions have been steady. White Java is 54s. 6d., Belgian granulated is 21s. 10½d., while Czech granulated is 22s.

Coffee.—A firm tone has prevailed, and in some cases quotations are harder. East Indian remains at 110s., Costa Rica is 2s. up at 102s., Nairobi has also gained 2s. at 90s., but Santos is 1s. down at 66s.

Rice.—This commodity has been steady, but business for the moment is very restricted. Supplies available are not very large and it would not be surprising if there were a further advance.

Dried Fruit.—The market position remains about the same. Currants have been in poor demand, and prices are rather easier. Stocks are none too extensive, however, and it would not take much buying to advance prices. Sultanas have been a good spot at slightly lower rates. Smyrna figs are in short supply, and prices have advanced.

Green Fruit.—The market for oranges continues to be very satisfactory, and it is very evident that the field for this fruit has widened considerably. There would seem to be little fear at present of the market being overstocked, as the fruit is moving off very well. Quotations: South Africans 23s. 6d. to 28s. 6d. box (96's to 288's). Lemons have been a weak spot, and prices have declined considerably. Quotations: 30s. to 35s. box (300's). Onions have been rather a variable market, Egyptians being lower.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been rather weak, Indian being 19s. 3d., while La Plata is 18s. 6d. Rapeseed has been dull, with Toria at 15s. 9d. and real bold Ferozepore at 15s. Cottonseed has been easy. Indian is 9s. 3d. and Egyptian black 11s. 4½d.

Oils.—Linseed oil has been done at 41s. 6d. Rape oil has been weak, with crude at 39s. and technical refined at 42s. Cotton oil has been dull. Refined common edible is 44s., Egyptian crude is 38s. 6d., technical is 40s., while deodorised is 46s.

Oil Cakes.—The market has been quite firm. Linseed cake is unchanged at 212s. 6d., coconut cake remains at 165s., while cottonseed cake is the same at 147s. 6d.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAK.

The following extracts are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the period May 16 to June 15:—

A marked increase in the prevailing temperatures was noticeable during the period under review. The high temperatures were favourable to the maturing of cereals and also to the progress of the spring and summer crops. The cotton crop has benefited considerably, though the high winds prevailing in the second week of June induced a fair number of flower-buds to be shed. Stock generally is in good condition and relatively free from disease. The large areas inundated during the unusually high flood afford grazing which will be assured throughout the summer. Desert vegetation is now completely dry.

The condition of the date crop in the Basrah area is not as favourable as previously reported. The "Halawi" crop is now estimated as being considerably below that of last year; "Khadrawi" promises better than "Halawi," but below last year's yield; "Sayer" is estimated as an average crop. Later estimates will depend mainly on the incidence of insect pests and diseases, and also on the prevailing climatic conditions. The application of artificial manures experimentally to date palms is being repeated through the courtesy of the resident director of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, who supplied the manures free of cost.

The total exports of cereals, 1922 crop, to the end of April was 163,181 tons. Except in parts of Upper Irak the current season's cereal crop is harvested. Threshing and winnowing are in progress. Small consignments of this latter crop are arriving in Basrah for export. Arrangements are being made for the transfer of the grain market from the port of Basrah to the rail-head at Margil, where the port authorities are making provision whereby the present handling charges will be considerably reduced. Efficient and economic cleaning machinery remains a necessity.

The condition of the cotton crop is good. A block of 460 acres at Felujah promises well. The first sowings on the estate of the Mosul Farms, Ltd., was destroyed by locusts: it has been resown. A keen demand for tractor ploughing on contract for cotton cultivation is anticipated for next season. Good progress has been made with silk work, which, as in the case of cotton work, is handicapped by a shortage of district subordinate staff. A reeling machine made locally at a cost of Rs. 90 is used for demonstration purposes at Muaddham, near Baghdad. Imported machines are in use at Baqubah. Large numbers of landowners and cultivators attend these demonstrations. Silk work has now arrived at that stage where commercial enterprise would find it profitable to erect filatures. The present departmental organisation permits of only a small proportion of the cocoons being reeled locally.

Progress in the Research Section continues satisfactorily. The Research Institute is nearing completion. All the Irak wheats under experiment have been discarded, as they are badly addicted to rust disease. Some of the imported Australian varieties show a marked superiority. It is noteworthy that over one ton of wheat per acre on relatively small plots has been obtained at the Experimental Farm, Rustam, without giving the crop any irrigation during its period of growth. Conservation of soil moisture contributed largely to this heavy yield, which was effected with a rainfall of 4.36 inches only. The farm crop of wheat and barley was cut by mechanical reapers, and a recently imported reaper and binder. With an efficient mechanical staff and a small workshop where petty repairs can be undertaken, these machines have proved their suitability

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even on irrigated lands. An all-steel combined thresher, straw-bruiser and chaff-cutter is doing satisfactory work.

The botanist and plant-breeder who has been responsible for cereal work has tendered his resignation from the service. His replacement is an urgent necessity. He has latterly been deputed to inquire into the administration of Sanniyah date-gardens in the Basrah Liwa.

Locusts in parts of Upper Irak were in flight by the second week in May. Large swarms are advancing on to the Dialah irrigated area, but fortunately most of the cereal crop is harvested, and the majority of the locusts have ceased feeding. The extent of the damage done to the current season's cereal crop in the unirrigated part of Upper Irak has not yet been estimated.

BEET SUGAR PROSPECTS IN CZECHO-SLOVAKIA.

The Acting Commercial Secretary at Prague has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that according to official figures a considerable increase in the area under beet cultivation in Czecho-Slovakia has taken place this year. This fact is of great importance to the sugar industry as, if the harvest is a favourable one, the sugar refineries will have at their disposal a considerably larger supply of beet than for many years past. The production will be more rational, and the costs of production, being divided up more uniformly, will be greatly reduced. All the Czecho-Slovak sugar factories have been established to handle large quantities of beet.

The prevailing crisis has been the cause of considerable difficulties to many factories, and several have been obliged temporarily to stop production. The situation during the war and during the years immediately following the Armistice, resulted in a decrease in the surface sown with beet. The home prices of cereals and other agricultural products being higher than those on the international market farmers ceased to be interested in the cultivation of the beet, which demands greater care and more trouble. To-day, however, the position is quite different. Owing to the fluctuations on the international market, and to the consequent uncertainty of what prices cereals will fetch, farmers have turned their attention again to the intensive culture of the beet, the price of which has been guaranteed to them by the negotiations which have taken place between them and the sugar producers.

After many years of stagnation, the surface under beet cultivation this year shows an appreciable increase, as can be seen from the following figures representing hectares (last year's figures being given in brackets):—Bohemia, 113,520 (96,151); Moravia, 68,490 (59,889); Silesia, 2,514 (2,163); Slovakia, 34,962 (26,388); total, 219,486 (184,591). The largest percentage increase is shown in Slovakia. This is explained by the fact that it was in Slovakia that the greatest reduction in beet-sowing took place. During the last pre-war campaign (1912-1913) the surface under beet amounted to 68,650 hectares; in 1919-1920 it had been reduced to 20,187 hectares, or scarcely one-third of the area sown in 1912-13. Taking Czecho-Slovakia as a whole, the increase over last year amounts to about one-fifth.

This year the sugar beet is well developed. It derives the nutritive elements for the development of the root from the atmosphere as well as from the sun. The development of the root, however, does not decide the value of the beet, but its value is judged according to its sugar contents, for which it is dependent upon heat and sun. Up to the end of June the beet suffered from lack of heat and sun, but if the hot weather which set in at the beginning of July continues there is every hope that this year's beet harvest will be satisfactory.

Although it is too early yet to predict the prospects of the coming season, there is every indication that it will be a favourable one, provided two-thirds of the production are allowed to be exported as already agreed upon, and the Government gives the industry a free hand. In view of a probable increase in production, foreign buyers have already shown a great interest in the quantity of sugar likely to be available in Czecho-Slovakia. Czecho-Slovakia is, however, not the only country in which an increase in the area under beet cultivation has taken place. In other European countries, with the exception of Germany, the surface has also been increased.

The Czecho-Slovak Railways are granting a 50 per cent. reduction of freights on samples sent to the Prague Fair.

After passing a Bill on July 25 to insure the coming harvest against damage by hail, the Serbian National Assembly adjourned until September 20.

Roumanian crops are satisfactory, and considerable grain exports are probable. Favourable weather assists the threshing. Rail and river transport is already being prepared for the export of grain during August.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW ELLERMAN LINER.

The trials took place, on July 20, of the finely modelled steamer City of Athens, built by Messrs. Wm. Gray and Co. of West Hartlepool, for the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. The main dimensions of the vessel are: Length, overall, 450 ft. 9 in.; breadth, extreme, 57 ft. 5 in.; and depth moulded to upper deck 32 ft. 10 in., with a d.w. of about 10,600 tons. The approximate gross tonnage is about 6,600. The double bottom tanks are arranged for the carriage of oil fuel, and steam pipes are fitted round the tank sections to liquefy the heavy oil. The vessel is of the two-deck type with bridge and forecastle decks combined and poop. Up-to-date arrangements are provided for the handling of cargo, twelve winches and sixteen derricks being fitted for this purpose.

Spacious accommodation is provided in steel houses, on the bridge deck, for the officers and engineers, the captain being accommodated in a steel house above. Accommodation is provided in the poop for forty firemen, and twenty-four seamen are housed in steel houses on the poop deck. The steering gear of the Wilson-Pirrie type, is placed in a large steel house on the poop deck, and is worked by telemotor from the navigating bridge. The vessel is installed throughout with electric light.

The propelling machinery, made by the Central Marine Engine works of the builders, consists of a set of triple-expansion engines with cylinders 28 in., 45 in., 78 in. diameter by 54 in. stroke, and three large boilers adapted for a working pressure of 250 lb. per square inch, and fitted with Howden's system of forced draught. A large number of "C. M. E. W." steamship auxiliaries, also made by the Central Marine Engine Works, are included in the machinery installation. The vessel and machinery have been built under the superintendence of Mr. Alexander Dalrymple.

THE SHIPPING EXHIBITION.

This year's Shipping Exhibition, which opens on August 31 at Olympia, promises to be a very notable event. One of the features of the exhibition will be the display of marine internal combustion engines, and machinery generally will be very much to the fore. Special interest is likely to be aroused by the varied exhibits of machinery for handling cargo that will be on view, while the section devoted to refrigerating machinery will, it is understood, contain new systems of installation.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 9).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11); s.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 13).

British India Line.—S.s. Nirvana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 18).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Yokohama (Birkenhead, August 10).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, August 4); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, August 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, August 4); s.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kashgar for Bombay (London, August 10); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25).

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Nablus, June 30.

The market remains quiet. The export of soap to Cairo continues, but the prices are low and a large stock remains unsold.

Haifa, June 30.

The grain market has opened, and business has been fairly regular. Prices, after many fluctuations, have closed with a weak tendency. Transactions have been normal, but there has been no special eagerness on the part of buyers.

BULGARIAN DEBT SERVICE.

The Bulgarian Government announces that it is prepared to pay to British bondholders the Coupon No. 33 of the Bulgarian Four and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1907, maturing on August 1, 1923, at francs (French) 11.25 each, and the bonds drawn for redemption on that date at francs (French) 500 each.

Holders of bonds which have been in British ownership since August 1, 1914, who are desirous of availing themselves of the offer should present the coupons and drawn bonds (to which all coupons due after the date of redemption must remain attached) for payment at the counting-house of Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court, E.C.2, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturdays excepted).

The amount due in French francs will be paid in sterling at the sight rate of exchange on Paris on the day of presentation, less income-tax. All bonds and coupons, together with such verifications of ownership as may be required, must be left seven clear days for examination.

ROUMANIA'S TAXES.

In the House of Commons, on July 30, Brigadier-General Spears asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs if he was aware that the Roumanian Government levied a special tax on foreign holders of Roumanian securities, and that this tax applied to money invested in Roumania before the law imposing the tax was passed; and would he consider making representations to the Roumanian Government in the interest of British holders of Roumanian investments, and also consulting with other Governments whose nationals were affected concerning this matter.

Mr. McNeill: The honourable and gallant member is presumably referring to the Roumanian law for the unification of direct taxation, Article 22 of which gives preferential treatment as regards taxation to the shares of joint stock companies whose capital is in the majority Roumanian. Strong representations have already been made to the Roumanian Government on more than one occasion upon this vexatious discrimination, but hitherto without effect.

CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

Replying in Parliament on July 30 to Mr. Harris, Mr. McNeill said: Under Article 58 of the Peace Treaty signed at Lausanne on July 24, 1923, Turkey and the other signatory Powers (except Greece) agreed reciprocally to renounce all claims for reparations. By the same Article Turkey renounced all claim to £5,000,000 Turkish in gold transferred to the Allies under the treaties with Germany and Austria. It is intended to apply this gold to the payment of claims against Turkey by Allied nationals.

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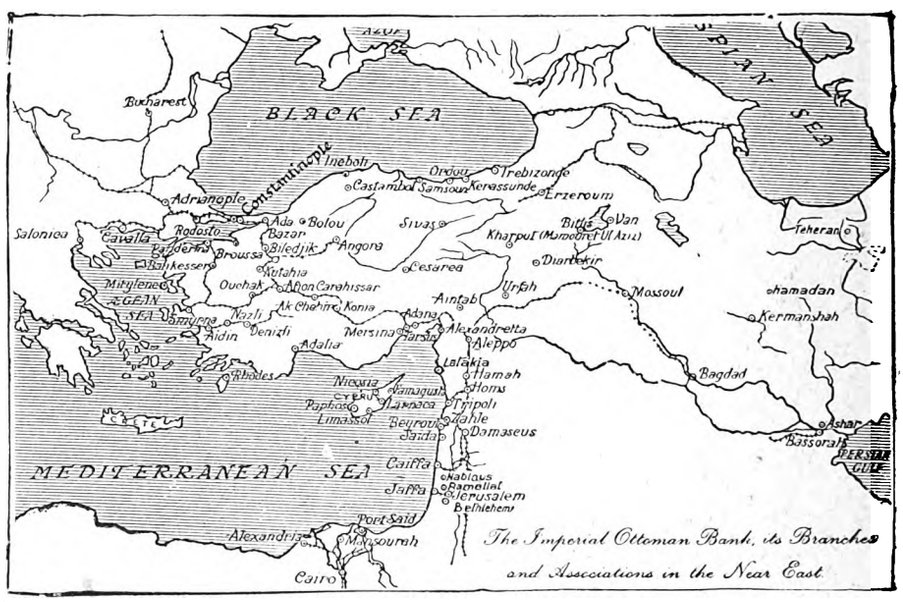

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Stock and Share Markets.

EFFECT OF POLITICAL SITUATION.

Oil Shares Depressed.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

The markets have not derived the slightest assistance so far from the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne. That fact speaks volumes as to the present position. The truth is that the markets to-day are overshadowed by the European political situation, and until that is cleared up it is hopeless to look for any real measure of improvement. It is, in short, Reparations to-day, just as it has been for so many weary months. Still, while the Turkish settlement has had no visible effect, its moral effect is very evident, for people very reasonably argue that if after such a long period of disappointment it has been possible to reach an agreement something of the same kind will be the ultimate outcome of the Ruhr impasse. The universal hope is that it will not be long delayed, for, as the Prime Minister pointed out, we are beginning to feel the effects of the position, and our experience of the trade depression has been quite profound enough for the statement that things may be worse in the winter to cause something akin to a feeling of alarm. Unfortunately, that is inevitable if the Allies cannot bring about a settlement with Germany. It is not surprising in the circumstances that the stock markets should be dull. At the present time, in fact, they are an apt reflection of the trade outlook. Once the bugbear of Reparations is out of the way there will be a swift change to buoyant markets, for everything is ripe for a real trade revival if only the conditions will permit it.

Gilt-Edged Dull.

Gilt-edged securities have held up fairly well in the face of adverse influences, but a rather dull note was in evidence yesterday. Consols are 58¾, War Loan Fives are 100¾, the Conversion Loan is 78⅝, while Fundings are 91⅛. Indian stocks have been steady, with the Seven per Cent. Loan at 118 and the Three per Cent. Loan at 59¼. The Sudan 5½ per Cent. Loan is 107½, while the 4½ per Cent. Loan is 95.

Foreign Government securities have made a very variable showing. French stocks have been dull, the Five per Cents. being 27, while the Four per Cents. are 21½. Italian Rentes are now 19½, while German Three per Cents. have eased off a little to 14s. In Near Eastern securities Turkish Unified have been very flat, closing at 19½. Greek stocks have been fairly firm, Monopolies being 41½, while the 1889 Loan is 47.

Industrials Dull.

There has been very little doing in the Industrial group. Business has been on the most restricted scale, and price movements have not been of any great moment. While there have been a few good features, in the main the changes have been in the downward direction. Textiles have been rather variable. Coats are 69s., while Courtaulds are 60s. 7½d. Tobaccos have shown considerable firmness. Bats are 98s. 6d., while Imperial Tobaccos are 70s. 6d. Iron and Steel shares have been inactive. Vickers are 13s., Armstrong are 16s. 6d., and Guest Keen are 41s. 6d. There have been no special movements in the Shipping section. P. and O. Deferred are 315, Furness Withys are 28s. 6d., while Cunards are 18s. 6d. In the Miscellaneous section Sudan Pantations have been a good spot, closing at 5 7-16. I shall not be surprised if this share goes higher in the near future.

Oils Depressed.

The Oil market is still going through a period of acute depression. It is particularly susceptible to the foreign political situation, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that prices are lower. During the past week there has been a certain amount of liquidation in the market, which has brought about renewed weakness. Burmahs have been fairly steady, closing at 4 9-16, while Anglo-Persian Ordinary are 3 3-16. Mexican Eagles have been particularly weak, and are down to 19s. 6d., Shells are 3¼, while Lobitos are 5⅝. In the Trinidad group Centrals are 9-16, Leaseholds are 1 11-32, while Apex are 2 7-32. Among Egyptians, Anglo-Egyptian B are 1 3-32, while Gemsah Oil Reefs are 11-16. Roumanians have generally been dull. Phœnix are 15-16, Steaua Romanas are 8s., Dacia Romanos are 13-16, while Hamilton's Oil Concessions are 1s. 6d. Looking at the list, one can only come to the conclusion that if ever bargains are to be obtained in the market it is now. Phœnix and Steaua Romanas look particularly tempting. It has, however, to be borne in mind that a continuance of the present uncertainty on the Continent will probably mean lower prices.

Rubbers Reviving.

The Rubber market always seems to go by opposites. When other markets are dull it revives, and *vice versa*. Now at long last there are unmistakable signs of activity, and the shares have begun to advance a little. Everything pointed to this as inevitable. The price of the commodity has been very firm of late, and stocks have been diminishing steadily. It would seem probable that we shall now witness a prolonged period of steadily advancing prices.

The duty on barley exported from Yugoslavia has been reduced from 100 to 40 dinars per 100 kilogrammes.

Sir James McKecknie, K.B.E., has resigned his position as managing director of the Barrow Naval Construction Works of Vickers, Ltd. He will, however, retain his seat on the board of directors of the Vickers Company. Commander K. W. Craven will be in charge of Barrow works.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	240-250
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	425-445
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	5,000,000
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.64-25.67
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4⅛
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.15
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	890-900
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4⅛
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	735-755
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.57⅝-4.57¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	77.90-78.00
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	105½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	485
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	324-330,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	900,000*

* Nominal.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

FOUNDED 1895.

Capital paid up - - - - - - 5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1920 53,200,000
Premium Income during 1920 - - - 28,300,000
Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed 150,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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Company Meetings.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK.

A Difficult Period.

Hope for Quietness and Stability.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Imperial Ottoman Bank was held on July 25 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.

The Viscount Goschen, C.B.E., presided.

The Secretary (Mr. Charles E. L. Corthorn) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have been informed that this meeting is properly constituted. I presume that it will be your pleasure that the report and accounts, as printed and circulated among you, shall be taken as read.

In moving the adoption of the report and accounts, I would like to say a few words. The period for 1922 has again been beset with difficulties of every kind. The general depression in trade did not abate, and the momentous events which occurred in the Near East also had their effect on our affairs.

The Greco-Turkish War.

During the first months of the year the Allied Governments made a sincere effort to put an end to the war between Turkey and Greece. For a time hope revived, and the hopo sufficed to restore initiative; but the negotiations had no result. Military operations, which had been virtually suspended, were resumed with increased activity in August. On September 9 Smyrna was entered by the Turks. On October 11 an armistice was signed at Mudania, and on November 20 the Peace Conference opened at Lausanne.

The military operations, the devastations in the war zone, the burning of Smyrna, and the fear of political complications, all had the most unfortunate economic results, and during the second half of the year business languished more and more.

In Constantinople the monetary tightness, the new Customs regulations, and the difficulty of communicating with Anatolia, contributed further to discourage trade. Meanwhile Southern Russia reduced its purchases on the market of Constantinople, and importers limited their transactions to foodstuffs and articles of prime necessity.

Great quantities of produce perished in the fire at Smyrna, but exports showed an increase. The foreign demand for tobacco, mohair, and silk was active enough to outpace production and to exhaust existing stocks.

Figures for the commercial movement of Turkey are only available for the first nine months of 1922. Imports stand at 59,341,571 Turkish pounds, as against 85,258,260 for the corresponding period in 1921. Exports reached 23,254,327 Turkish pounds, as against 9,841,109 for the preceding year. The deficit on the commercial balance for this period has therefore been reduced from 75,417,151 Turkish pounds to 36,087,244. In spite of this situation, the rate of exchange did not improve. In December, 1921, the pound sterling stood at about 700 piastres. Last December it closed at 800, after having reached the figure of 1,000 piastres in the early days of November. The instability of the rate compelled merchants to observe great caution and increased the stagnation.

JADRANSKA BANKA

OF BELGRADE.

Temporary Headquarters: LJUBLJANA, JUGOSLAVIA.
Cable Address: "Jadranska."

Capital - - - Dinars 60,000,000
Surplus - - - ,, 32,515,000

BRANCHES:
Beograd, Bled, Cavtat, Celje, Dubrovnik, Ercegnovi, Jelsa, Jesenice, Korcula, Kotor, Kranj, Ljubljana, Maribor, Metkovic, Prevalje, Sarajevo, Split, Sibenik and Zagreb.

Foreign Department.
Affiliated Banks:
BANCA ADRIATICA: Abbazia, Trieste and Zara.
ADRIATISCHE BANK, Vienna.
FRANK SAKSER STATE BANK, New York City.
Official Correspondent for South America:
BANCO YUGOSLAVO DE CHILE, Valparaiso, Antofagasta, Punta Arenas, Porvenir, Puerto Natales, Chile.

Banking business of every description transacted at all Branches, Affiliated Banks and through Correspondents. Bills collected and negotiated. Letters of Credit and Drafts issued. Commercial Credits established at all Branches and Agencies of the Bank in Jugoslavia and abroad.
Industrial enterprises in Jugoslavia financed and established.

Ottoman Public Debt.

The net receipts of the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt for 1921-1922 amounted to 7,641,312 Turkish pounds. For 1922-23 the Council of the Debt estimates that they will not amount to more than 6,262,000 Turkish pounds, owing to the fact that for this period they will be deprived of the revenue of three more districts of Anatolia. In 1922 the Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt and the Ottoman Government proceeded to the distribution of the provisions which existed for the service of the Unified Debt and of various Turkish Loans, for the period from March, 1915, to September, 1922. The payments on account were made for the Turkish Unified Debt in July and September for the Loans outside the Decree in March and October, 1922.

At Constantinople the various branches of our activity maintained their normal progress during the first six months and showed satisfactory results. The events of the second half-year, however, had a serious effect on the volume of our operations, not only in Constantinople, but particularly in Smyrna, and in the devastated regions of Asia Minor. It will be recalled that the building occupied by our Agency in Smyrna was destroyed in the fire. The cash was saved, the safes containing the securities remained intact, and the actual damage was covered by insurance policies taken out to cover all risks. Measures were immediately taken to reopen the Agency, which has been installed in a new building. On the other hand, events have compelled us to close our Agencies in various towns for the time being.

Eastern Branches.

The business of our branches in Palestine, Mesopotamia, Cyprus and Egypt has been affected by the general state of stagnation in the business world; in Greece this stagnation has been particularly marked. In the course of the year we opened an office at Nablous (Palestine) and founded a new Persian branch in Teheran.

The development of our affairs in London and Paris continues steadily, and our agencies in Manchester, Marseilles, and Tunis await with confidence the revival of commercial relations with the East, which may be expected to follow the conclusion of peace.

Turning now to the institutions in which we have a definite interest; our *filiale*, the Banque de Syrie, has had to face a diminution of commerce in Syria and the Lebanon. Nevertheless, it has been able to constitute considerable reserves and to pay a dividend for 1922 of 5 per cent. The Banque Franco-Serbe, in which we have an important interest, has been engaged in consolidating its situation after the war. The Bank of Roumania finds itself in a satisfactory position.

It is a matter of considerable interest to our establishment that the great public enterprises in Turkey should prosper—railways, quays, tramways, electricity, and mines. At present these are all in process of reorganisation and adaptation to the changed conditions, economic and financial, which have followed the war. It is sincerely to be hoped that the negotiations now proceeding with the Turkish Government will place these concerns in a position to develop their usefulness with profit to the country.

The Balance Sheet.

With reference to the balance-sheet: as is shown in the report, the assets and liabilities in foreign currencies have been converted into sterling at the rates ruling on December 31 last—so far as francs are concerned—at the rate of 64f. to the pound sterling, as against 52f. on December 31 of the previous year. The accounts made up to December 31, 1922, after providing for bad and doubtful debts out of revenue, and provisions previously made, show an amount available of £194,693 8s. 10d., including the sum of £18,553 3s. 7d. brought forward from the previous year. This result cannot fail to be regarded as satisfactory, taking into consideration the unfavourable circumstances under which it has been accomplished.

In consequence of the uncertainty of the situation throughout the world, and chiefly on account of fluctuations in the exchanges, which affect existing balances in foreign currencies—the franc exchange having already fluctuated this year between 64 and 79.50 to the pound sterling—we can only propose that this balance should be carried forward. We have no doubt that you will approve of this policy, dictated by prudence, which will have the effect of strengthening the bank's situation, in view not only of the contingencies to which I have referred, but also of such developments as may attend the conclusion of peace. This peace has now been achieved. I express the hope that it will bring quietness and stability to the East. A prudent

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Government Administration and a collaboration of all interests can now make possible for Turkey an era of prosperity which will permit the development of its native wealth. For such a future we are prepared.

The members of our staff in Asia Minor have again found themselves in a situation of great delicacy and, at times, of danger. We address to them all a message of sympathy, with our thanks to the directions of Constantinople, London, Paris, and other agencies, and from the bank to all other members of our staff for their unsparing efforts during this period of stress.

The report was unanimously adopted.

FURNESS, WITHY, AND CO.

The Trade Outlook.

The thirty-second annual general meeting of Furness, Withy, and Company, Limited, was held on July 26, at the registered office of the company, Furness House, Leadenhall Street, E.C. Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., presided.

The Secretary read the notice convening the meeting; Mr. Ralph T. Warwick, of Messrs. W. T. Walton and Son, read the auditors' report.

Sir Frederick W. Lewis, Bart., in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that those of them who had any knowledge of the shipping industry in particular, and trading conditions generally, would not be surprised to see that the profits were reduced by £102,696 1s. 3d. It would probably be a gratification to them, as it was to the directors, that the falling off of the profits had not been greater. The outlook being so uncertain and unsatisfactory, the directors very reluctantly have decided they would be lacking in prudence if they continued to distribute the same sum in dividend and bonus as has been their custom for the past seven years. The reduction in profits represented 2½ per cent. of their ordinary capital, and he would ask them to approve of the customary 5 per cent. bonus being reduced to half that amount. Nevertheless, this would make a distribution for the year of 7½ per cent., free of income-tax, which under all circumstances, he was sure the shareholders would regard as satisfactory. They could, of course, have maintained their bonus at the sacrifice of their depreciation or carry-forward, and whilst their assets all stood in their books at a satisfactory figure, they felt that every prudent board of directors should strive under all circumstances to set aside something to their reserves. They were, therefore, going to ask them to authorise them to apply £200,000 of their profits to depreciation and to carry forward an amount of £202,315 12s. 11d., which in itself was equal to over 5 per cent. of the ordinary share capital of the company, and their reserve fund, as they knew, stood at £2,000,000, equivalent to one-half of their ordinary capital.

As was the case last year, a very small proportion of their profits was derived from steamers that they owned. The trading conditions had so reflected themselves upon the rates of freight that it was only with the utmost difficulty that expenses could be paid, and even then, in order to avoid loss greater than the cost of laying up, it had been necessary for them, in common with other shipping companies, to lay up a proportion of their own and associated tonnage.

If there should fortunately be any considerable revival in the shipping trade he could say without the slightest hesitation that their company was as well equipped and as firmly established as it ever had been, and they had resources at their disposal that would enable them to take the fullest advantage of any improvement.

He was sorry to say he could not hold out any very encouraging hopes of substantial improvement as regards their current financial year, one-quarter of which had already passed. They were unfortunately more or less helpless in bringing about any trade revival. The only thing they could do, as he had repeatedly pointed out, was to concentrate their energies in reducing expenditure.

They all deplored the strike that had recently broken out amongst the dockers, and in this connection two thoughts readily occurred to his mind:—1st: In all matters relating to employers and employed, the absolute necessity for re-recognising the sanctity of contracts, and, 2nd, the remorseless logic of foreign competition. It was, of course, a lamentable fact, which he was sure no one regretted more than the employers themselves, that the dockers' employment was of a casual nature, and this was unfortunately emphasised by the existing trade conditions. As a matter of fact, this also applied to the trading of ships, as nothing could be more casual than the employment of shipping at the present time. The tonnage laid up at the thirty-six principal ports of the United Kingdom on July 1 amounted to 712,000 net tons, as compared with 546,555 net tons on April 1 last. Unless there was an unforeseen improvement, he very much feared that that figure would be still further increased.

That brought them to the second point he had mentioned—namely, the remorseless logic of foreign competition. It was only cumulative reduction in costs that could in the long run lead to a greater volume and flow of traffic. It seemed to be a fact that in those industries in this country that came into direct competition with foreign nations the economic necessity for lower wages had been more quickly realised. The dockers did not come into direct competition with foreign labour, and therefore the relative rate of wages was higher.

In conclusion, their organisations throughout the whole world were keen and enthusiastic—so much so that he should not like to let that opportunity pass without putting on record the board's appreciation of the work of the staffs during the past difficult and trying year.

The report was unanimously adopted.

EGYPTIAN DELTA LIGHT RAILWAYS.

Causes of Decrea ed Traffic.

The twenty-sixth ordinary general meeting of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., was held on July 27 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Sir Montagu Sharpe, K.C. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said that their earnings for the year ended March 31, 1923, aggregated £343,792, as compared with £396,658 for the previous year, a decrease of £52,866. With regard to the passenger traffic, the total number of passengers carried was 4,790,814, as compared with 5,590,001 for the previous year, a reduction of 799,187 (the principal decrease being in third-class passengers), the receipts being £210,562 for the year under review, as compared with £249,643 for the previous year, a decrease of £39,081. That continued decrease in earnings had caused them much anxiety, and no effort had been spared to investigate the causes which had brought about this situation, on which they were in constant communication with their agent and general manager in Egypt.

There was no question, in his opinion, that the fundamental reason for that regrettable state of affairs was the extreme poverty of the fellaheen, upon whom they relied for their third-class passenger traffic. The fellah was largely dependent upon the cotton crops and upon the market price of the cotton. During 1922 the crop yield throughout the provinces in Lower Egypt, which their lines served, was unusually poor.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

ANIMAL INTESTINES
Cleaned and Packed in Salt or Dried.
L. & E. HEYMANS, Ltd., Importers,
69, St. John St., London, E.C.1. (Estd. 1872.)

ASHWELL & NESBIT, LTD.
Barkby Lane, Leicester.
Makers of the RUNWELL SEMI-ROTARY PUMP.

CANVAS, PAINTS,
MANILLA & WIRE ROPES, ETC.
J. McMillan & Bolton, Ltd.,
Dashwood House,
London, E.C.

EMERY STONE.
The Levant Mineral Co., Ltd., Largest Importers in United Kingdom.
Open to receive offers of high-class qualities
Address: 29-30 Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C.2.

MICA
AND ALL Electrical Insulating Materials,
ATTWATER & SONS,
Contractors to British, American, French, Italian Admiralty and War Office.
PRESTON, ENGLAND.

PRODUCE from the NEAR and FAR EAST
EDWARD S. JOLY,
HAMBURG 14.
General Commission Agent.
First-class Bank References

STEAM & HYDRAULIC ENGINE PACKING MANUFACTURERS
(Flax, Asbestos & Cotton).
and All Engine Room Stores
ATTWATER & SONS,
Hopwood St. Mills, Preston
Tel.Add.:"Attwaters,Preston"
Contractors to British, American, French and Italian Admiralty.

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reaches a great potential market stretching from Morocco to India

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Another reason for the decline in passenger traffic was the competition from the large increase in the number of private and Government cars in the districts. This particularly affected their first-class traffic, as many private individuals and most Government officials who previously used trains now travelled by motor-car. Efforts were made to meet this competition by reducing rates, but this was met by corresponding reductions in the fares charged by the motor-cars, and resulted in a falling off in their receipts.

As he had already mentioned, the principal reason for the reduced passenger traffic receipts was the poverty of the fellaheen, and it was obvious that to meet that evil some method must be adopted which would enable them to carry them at sufficiently low rates to meet their pockets and also to supply the necessity for a more frequent service.

For the purpose of thoroughly discussing this question and to decide upon the best course to pursue, their agent and general manager in Egypt was recently called to London to confer with the board, with the result that, after carefully considering the subject from all points of view in light of the reports presented by him, the directors were unanimously of the opinion that the objective could only be attained by the introduction of a form of light rail motor-coaches, accommodating thirty to forty passengers, which would enable them to run a more frequent and economical service and to reduce fares to the necessary level. Steps were now being taken to purchase at once three such vehicles as an experimental measure. If this was successful, it was proposed to extend the service to other sections of the line where it was likely to prove remunerative.

Now, with regard to their goods traffic, they had, in self-protection against competition and to induce a freer movement of goods over their lines, been compelled, in common with other railways in Egypt, to reduce their tariffs for certain commodities, principally cotton and cotton seed. As a result they carried 422,909 tons as compared with 412,015 tons during the preceding year, an increase of 10,894 tons. Notwithstanding this increase in tonnage, their earnings showed a decrease of £12,911, being £124,650 as compared with £137,561.

With regard to expenditure, they had fortunately succeeded in reducing the aggregate by £37,270; that was to say, from £296,986 for the year ended March 31, 1922, to £259,716 for the year under review.

He would now turn to the net revenue account. The balance shown on that account as carried forward was £103,230 4s. 1d. If the balance brought in from the previous year, amounting to £61,649 19s. 5d., was deducted, it left a balance of £41,580 4s. 8d., which was their total net revenue for the year available for distribution, including interest on investments, deposits, etc., and the amount refunded by the Egyptian Government on account of interest on investments paid to the Government during the four years ended March 31, 1921.

It was unnecessary for him to reiterate the remarks he made at the last general meeting in connection with their financial position, and the need for conserving their resources for capital expenditure. This position was practically unchanged, and he might remind them that he then also expressed the opinion that the traffics were "not sufficiently encouraging to lead them to hope for anything but a lean year."

Unfortunately, that forecast had materialised; but as they had for all practical purposes earned sufficient to pay again a dividend of 4 per cent. on the preference share capital, which would absorb £41,631 4s., they had decided, after careful consideration of all the circumstances, to recommend that that should be done.

The resolution was seconded by Sir W. E. Garstin, and was carried unanimously.

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ROUMAINE

PAID-UP CAPITAL - - - - - Lei 50,000,000
RESERVES - - - - - - 12,865,588.76
DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS 273,629,395.47
(At the date of June 30, 1920).

Head Office: BUCHAREST, Str. Smardan, 3.
Branches: BRAILA, CHISINAU (Bessarabia).

Agencies: Galatz, Constantza, Bazargic (New Dobroudja), Craiova and Ploesti.

Correspondents in all towns.
EVERY DESCRIPTION OF BANKING BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

Letters of Credit for all Countries. Special Departments for operations of goods and grain. Telegraphic Address: COMRO.

BANQUE DU SYNDICAT AGRICOLE JALOMITZA

CAPITAL - 60,000,000 Lei.
BUCHAREST. Branches: CALARASH and DOROHOI.
Head Office: Telegraphic Address: BANCAIAL.
Every description of Banking Business transacted; participations; special section for grain trade. General Manager: Dr. C. B. MALTEZIANO.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Imperial Ottoman Bank.

The report of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for 1922 states that in the preparation of the balance-sheet assets and liabilities in foreign currency have been converted into sterling at the rates ruling at December 31, 1922. The accounts, after providing for bad and doubtful debts out of revenue and provisions previously made, show an amount available of £194,693 6s. 10d., including £18,553 3s. 7d. brought forward. In view of the present situation, the committee recommend that this amount be carried forward.

Steaua Romana.

The Steaua Romana, Bucharest, announces that the dividend for the year 1922 has been fixed at 50 per cent., or 250 lei per share. With the Roumanian tax deducted, the dividend will amount to 217.50 lei, which will be paid on or after August 7 on presentation of coupon No. 20 at the offices of Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court, E.C.2.

At an extra-ordinary meeting on July 7 it was decided to increase the capital from 310,000,000 lei to 465,000,000 lei by the creation of 310,000 shares of 500 lei each. The shares are offered to present holders at a premium of 50 lei, in the proportion of one new share for every two held, no account being taken of fractions. Subscriptions will be opened on August 7 and will close on August 31.

Indo-Burma Oilfields.

The directors of the Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920), Ltd., have issued to shareholders copies of a report by Mr. A. W. Ibbett, who was commissioned by the board to visit and report on the properties and organisation in Burma, and a geological report by Dr. Murray Stuart, the company's chief geologist, on the company's Okpon area. Mr. Ibbett is of opinion that, while there has been considerable success in the shallow wells, bigger production will eventually be found at depth, and he forecasts that within a short time daily production and sales will rather more than balance expenses. Dr. Stuart concludes that the report on the Okpon concession made by Mr. H. J. Davies in 1921 is substantially correct, and he is of the opinion that the geological structure of Okpon promises better than that of Padaukpin.

TYPEWRITERS IN TURKEY.

The typewriter was introduced into Constantinople some forty years ago, but it made slow progress during the reign of Abdul Hamid, because the people were taught that the typewriter was an "unholy" mechanism. But with the advent of the Constitutional régime, after the revolution of 1908, ancient prejudices were gradually dissipated, and in the course of time (says an American Consular report) a growing demand for the typewriter began to be felt. During the late war, the Turkish Government required that correspondence with its various departments be carried on in Turkish, and the typewriter was consequently adapted to that language. Machines were sold at abnormally high prices because of the impossibility of getting new stocks from England and the United States, owing to the closing of the Dardanelles. German firms at that time enjoyed direct connections with Turkey, and among other makes, the Continental, Adler, Mercedes, and Torpedo typewriters were successfully introduced on the Turkish market. The period immediately following the Armistice was exceptionally prosperous for the business people of Constantinople and other ports of Turkey, and the typewriter began to play an important part in expediting commercial affairs. About 1,000 typewriters of American manufacture were imported into Constantinople during 1920, besides a considerable number of calculating machines, filing cabinets, and other office appliances. However, when the economic crisis set in during the autumn of 1920, continuing during 1921 and 1922, numerous Constantinople concerns liquidated their business and withdrew from the city. These firms disposed of their office equipment at exceedingly low prices, and the market was somewhat flooded with typewriters. Local sales of typewriters during 1922 were estimated at approximately one-half of those in 1920, or about 500, at prices varying between 150 and 180 Turkish pounds.

The official full-speed trial of the steel oil-tank steamer San Quirino, built by Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co., Ltd., for the Eagle Oil Transport Company, took place on July 18 with satisfactory results.

We are informed that the appeal made on behalf of the Royal Alfred Institution for Aged Seamen is meeting with a generous response. Donations ranging from as little as 3d. to several hundreds of pounds have been received, although one or two replies have stated that the heavy burden of taxation operates against a larger contribution

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 639—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Angora and its Responsibilities.

Closer investigation of the actualities of peace is helping to convince the Turks that the difficult period in the building of a new Turkey is ahead of them. Mustapha Kemal Pasha is reported to have summoned the Deputies of his Popular Party to a preliminary meeting at Angora this week with a view to drawing up a Parliamentary programme. Proposals for important modifications in the Law of the Constitution are expected, and among these may be one designed to abolish by degrees the present system under which all Ministers are elected by the Assembly without reference to the wishes of the one selected by the same body as Prime Minister. It is on the whole a good sign that already part of the system which, under the prompting of its Moscow friends, seemed a little while ago ideal to Angora, is being found to be unworkable, or, at least, prejudicial to good government in Turkey. The problem of an Assembly which is at once a legislative and an executive body is not likely to be approached at present. The new Deputies will find the exercise of power pleasant, and it may need a movement from outside to convince them that the existing scheme is unworkable.

The Deportations.

In the economic sphere there are signs that the mistake made in deporting Greeks from Asia Minor is already being appreciated. Turks, it is stated, are untrained for building and carpentry; but the Greek skilled workmen in these trades have been expelled from Asia Minor. Turkish contractors, therefore, are reduced to trying to recruit Greek masons and others in Constantinople. Similarly, in other branches of industry the absence of the Greek worker is being felt acutely. It may take time for this state of affairs to reach a stage at which the Turkish authorities are compelled to take notice of it, and it will certainly be better that the Turks should find it out for themselves, and not have the matter even indirectly made a political question. The exchange of populations has been agreed to and must be carried out as best it may. The Turks will not modify their programme to please foreigners; only when they realise that a change is necessary in their own interests will they begin to think of allowing deported Greeks to return. A far more pressing problem is that of the refugees, who have hitherto been maintained at the expense of various relief organisations. The chief fund raised for the purpose—that of the American Near East Relief—is now exhausted, and there is nothing to take its place. Negotiations on the subject between Greece and Turkey are not likely to lead to any practical result in time to save the lives of the unfortunate refugees.

Bulgaria and the Ægean.

Reference is made elsewhere in this issue to Mr. Ronald McNeill's letter to *The Times* on the subject of Bulgaria's claims to an outlet on the Ægean Sea; but, as the question is one of the most important in Near Eastern politics, too much attention can hardly be devoted to it. Just as it would have been more sensible from the Allies' point of view, and much more convenient, if the Turks had accepted the Treaty of Sèvres without demur, so the Bulgarians must expect harsh words for not falling in at once with what the Allies consider to be good for them. "It is entirely owing to the conduct of the Bulgarians themselves, who overreached themselves during the negotiations," writes Mr. McNeill, "that they did not secure more favourable conditions." Even those more favourable conditions, however, would have fallen short of what the Bulgarians regard as essential for their future development. There may have been an error in tactics on the part of the Bulgarian delegation at Lausanne in trying to induce the Conference to travel by easy stages the whole distance that they wished to take it, instead of naming their goal at the outset and adhering to it; but the mistake may have been prompted solely by a diffidence that was entirely correct. The root of the trouble lies in the decision of the Supreme Council to shut off Bulgaria from the Ægean Sea, and then in the attempt of the Allies to see how little can be granted to the Bulgarians with a view to glossing over the mistake. If the matter is to be regulated by the policy of punishment, then Bulgaria should be penalised without mitigating con-

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ditions. Clause 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly should not have been inserted, and the future of the Near East must be allowed to take care of itself. If, on the other hand, the history of the last five years is a standing warning against the attempt to base any settlement on vindictiveness, and the Lausanne Conference implied an effort on the part of the Allies to undo some, at least, of the more glaring mistakes made by the Supreme Council, then there is no justification for half measures, and the policy of taking from Bulgaria an Ægean seaboard ought to be jettisoned without further ado.

Yugoslav Politics.

The reconstruction of the Yugoslav Cabinet does not represent an attempt to hold out an olive branch to the Federalists. The three new Ministers are not only Radicals, but also Serbians. In the face of the Opposition's tactics, no other course may have been open to M. Pashitch; but it can hardly fail to make the position of his Government still more difficult in view of the fact that he commands little more than a third of the votes of the Skupshtina. It may be that M. Pashitch, who is no believer in passive tactics, hopes that by means of an attack on the Raditch stronghold he will be able to mould Yugoslav politics on more practical lines. Ever since the Constitution became law there has been a political deadlock. Hopes were entertained a few months ago of an understanding between the Radical Party and the Croatians, but these have been wrecked on the intransigence of M. Raditch. M. Pashitch's fighting instinct may prompt him to think that the time to show himself conciliatory towards the federal idea will be when M. Raditch is out of his way. Some modification of the existing Constitution seems inevitable, if Yugoslavia is to settle down to a normal constitutional existence.

Lord Reading and the Cabinet.

The cable is not an unmixed blessing, and an unfortunate impression was undoubtedly produced in this country by the transmission of some detached phrases from Lord Reading's recent speech, suggesting that on the question of Kenya the Government of India had taken an inaccurate view of its position in relation to the Cabinet. Viscount Peel has been at pains to remove this impression by a statement in the House of Lords, supplemented by the circulation of extracts from the speech, and his efforts may fairly be described as successful. Lord Reading, in fact, insisted at some length on the correct constitutional doctrine, which Indian politicians so rarely mention, of the sovereignty of Parliament, and, if he used one or two unfortunate phrases, they must be interpreted in the light of the speech taken as a whole. The Viceroy's position is undoubtedly difficult. His essential duty is to carry out the orders of the Cabinet, but he has to live with a Legislature which would like to take over some of the Cabinet's most important functions, and with politicians who are apt to treat phrases like inconvertible currency, obtainable in any quantity on demand. It is all the more necessary that the authorities should be careful to maintain a due relation between the paper in circulation and the reserve of fact on which it is based.

The Weakness of India.

Discussions on the position of Indians in Kenya continued last week, but nothing new was said, and the most interesting item was the report of speeches made at a private gathering, at which Mr. Srinivasa Sastri and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru reiterated the demand for Dominion status as the only safeguard for India against treatment such as that which they resent. The aspiration is entirely legitimate, but we should like to ask these two gentlemen, between whom the leadership of the new India seems to lie, what practical steps they or their followers are taking to bring it within reach. They must realise that a democratic franchise is the first condition precedent, seeing that Parliament is not out to establish oligarchies: what are they doing to make it possible to enfranchise the pariahs and outcasts, or even the bulk of the peasants, who must own and work the Dominion when it comes? They assert that India is politically weak: what measures are they taking to lay the foundations of greater strength in the only possible position—the hearts and minds of the masses of the people? The work will take some time; but that is all the more reason why it should be put in hand at once.

Calcutta's Houses.

Recent news suggests that the inhabitants of Calcutta are at last becoming seriously perturbed over the housing question. The topic is, of course, no novelty, for people have been grumbling for a great many years, and an Improvement Trust has been at work since Lord Minto's time; but citizens have been apathetic, powers and resources have been limited, and ground landlords, it is whispered, have occasionally been obstructive, so that, while much has been accomplished, things have on balance got worse instead of better. How bad they are may be inferred from the statement of the *Englishman* that the immediate problem is not one of relieving discomfort, but of saving people from being killed, and it appears to us that the time is ripe for the application of some of that vigorous driving-power which Sir George Lloyd has been employing in Bombay. Sir George was, of course, fortunate in being able to build in the sea, while the coming saviour of Calcutta may be driven to the swamps; but the task before him, though it is very difficult, is not impossible, and the sooner it is tackled seriously the better.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Holiday.

The Bank Holiday was for London a perfect one. Undeterred by newspaper talk of depressions off the West Coast of Ireland, or some other wild, forgotten spot, Londoners marched on all three days out into the open air, and enjoyed themselves in the intensive way which only they can command. By all routes they flocked out of London, and if the exodus was not a record, one would be surprised, for never do there seem to have been so many people on the roads. They gave themselves completely up to gaiety, leaving the Ruhr and Lausanne and the future of Mr. McKenna a thousand radiant miles away. To-morrow morning, it is true, the city air may be full of passionate regrets and heavy with sore heads, but to-day it has all undoubtedly been gloriously worth it.

But while Londoners fled in the sunshine to the fields, our woolly provincials came up stolidly and so contentedly to gaze at what the Cockneys left to them. There are, it seems, people from Wales and the North brave and original enough to enter places like the British Museum and the Zoo on Bank Holidays; and no doubt they, in their curious inversion of values, enjoy such things. But for London the holiday was a call to the sun and the moon and the half-light, and all but the very old and very young and very wise obeyed it.

England and France.

Parliament adjourned on Thursday in a state of gloom and of perplexity, and with the presentiment that it may be convoked before the due time of

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November. For both in the Lords and in the Commons the dark question of the Ruhr had been debated, and of any definite action on the part of the British Government neither Lord Curzon in the one place nor the Prime Minister in the other could give any hint. The British *questionnaire* had, it appeared, been disregarded by both the French and the Belgian Governments, and the only hope that we could have lay in the publication of the different Allied Government's views.

The Government, then, is not hopeful. Nor were its critics, of whom none (unless one mentions Lord Birkenhead, across whose bright intellect dashed the suggestion of the withdrawal of British troops from Germany) had anything constructive to offer. Very few people, in fact, can see anything that might helpfully be done; and the only class of opinion which commands any direct respect is that which favours immediate identification of British with French policy.

It is in some ways a lamentable fact, because it plays straight into the hands of men who are neither straight nor patriotic, that many Englishmen view the question of Reparations, and indeed, the whole question of Europe's future, solely from the business point of view. They are oppressed by the magnitude of our unemployment problem, and their sympathy is with the Government when it tells them that the occupation of the Ruhr can do little but increase the size of that problem. They do not greatly relish the idea of a return by Germany to commercial prosperity, but fear that our own trade security is incomplete without it.

But, looking at the matter from a wider point of view, one can see no possible policy of any wisdom other than co-operation with France. The Prime Minister touched the root when he said that he trusted France—knocking the bottom out of the current belief that we had removed one menace, Germany, only to set up another, France. But he is, one can but presume, too much in the grip of "financial" ideas not yet to have put away the shibboleth of the "economic interdependence" of European States; and while this is so, no compromise between the political ambitions of France and the business intentions of Britain seems possible.

The Future of the Entente.

Meanwhile, we are all waiting for something to turn up, and not in that state of sustained hope which M. Poincaré enjoys. If the passive resistance of the Ruhr were to fail, certainly the problem would be simplified (although it would not be solved); and we may take it that the possibility of some such happening was in the Premier's mind when he promised that Parliament would be specially assembled during the recess if something important took place. In the next few months, therefore, is held the future of the entente between Britain and France. Friendship between the two countries has survived longer than was thought possible by those who heeded the misrepresentations and displays of ignorance which have been shown on both sides of the Channel; but one is bound to fear that that friendship (indissoluble for private individuals) may not much longer find political expression. By the finer-minded in this country such withdrawal into a policy of isolation would be infinitely regretted; but "business" opposition to them is very strong. If, however, any attempt were made to substitute the friendship of any other European country for that of France, it would very certainly fail. The French, or nobody at all, must be our future allies.

Admiralty and Air Service.

The compromise which the Cabinet has made over the dispute between the Admiralty and the Air Ministry came as a surprise, the general opinion being that the Admiralty would win the day. That it has lost, however, is as yet by no means certain, for when the House reassembles there will be very hot discussion over the acceptance by the Cabinet of the main recommendations of the Committee of Imperial Defence. The Admiralty, towards whom the sentiments of most people are inclined, has many friends in the House; the Air Ministry, whose case is chiefly strong in theory, not so many.

But sentiment and theory count for little; practice is the one thing that matters. The temporary compromise consists in this. The Admiralty has lost its case for a separate arm in so far as the men of the R.A.F. who work with the fleet are not to change their uniform, and the Air Ministry retains the control of the supply department of naval aircraft and material. It has won in that it is to receive all the aircraft that it requires, and is to be allowed to include the cost of them in the Naval Estimates. And the personnel, material, and reserves of the naval air arm are not to be withdrawn by the Air Ministry without either the consent of the Admiralty or a decision of the Cabinet.

Nobody seems particularly happy about the compromise except the politicians and the journalists; but as they are the weightiest people in the world to-day, one supposes that some attempt to work this ingenious system of dual control will really be made.

August 4.

August 4 is variously regarded as the beginning of a great heroic event, of a sad, yet inspiring tragedy, and of an inevitable futility. In any case, the occasion is unforgettable. But since the War our feelings, it cannot be denied, and perhaps our consciences, have become dulled; and though we had for long been painfully aware of the fight which Earl Haig had been forced (by the fineness of his character) to make on behalf of ex-Service officers and men, it came with something of a shock to learn from him on this very date that there are still five thousand ex-officers seeking employment, a hundred thousand disabled men compelled to receive charity to make up the deficiency of their pension, and four hundred thousand ex-soldiers unable to get work. It is too late now to inquire into the cause of this sad state of affairs: the most and the best that the ordinary man can do is to respond to the Field-Marshal's appeal. Some charities, it is true, are run cynically and selfishly; but Earl Haig's Fund is the highest and most honourable kind of charity conceivable.

London Traffic.

At last the Government has realised that the traffic problem in London has become intolerable, and before the House adjourned on Thursday it was announced that a Bill is to be introduced next November proposing to make the Minister of Transport the central authority for London traffic, assisted by an advisory Board composed of representatives of local authorities and traffic users. That the Bill will meet with opposition is certain—for in the history of traffic private convenience has always opposed public interest; but the whole question has been so overlaid, not only with anomalies but now with dangers, that the prospect of the Bill's not becoming law is almost incredible. When it is realised that nearly all the statutory provisions for the control of traffic were made before the introduction of electric and motor traffic; when the absurd inconsistencies of the by-laws are brought home to one—no coal or beer, for instance, may be unloaded across the pavement between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., but coke,

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wine, cider, and mineral waters may be so unloaded; and when we learn, from a recent statement by Scotland Yard, that the increase in the number of traffic fatalities is alarming—then it is surely time to grapple with and overcome the problem. Left to themselves, private interests will, generally speaking, increase both the number and speed of their vehicles; and our streets as they are simply will not stand such sport.

A Roman Fort.

For a long time in England history has been at war with tradition, particularly over matters relating to Roman times. During last century there was a constant effort to belittle our indebtedness to the Romans (with a consequent exaggeration of what the Teutons did in this country), but in this century tangible proof is being supplied of the extent and the permanency of the Romans' work here. The latest evidence is to be found in research, which began a day or two ago, at Filey, on the Yorkshire coast. Everyone who has been there knows of the tradition (until the present time disbelieved) of the submerged "bar" of rock about 20 ft. in width, and extending for about 200 yards, known as the "Roman Pier." Divers have been at work there, and it is almost satisfactorily proved already that the "pier" is of artificial construction. Probably it was a Roman coast-watch fort or signal station, for there is a chain of similar forts in the North: but, in any case, even if it be proved that it is not of Roman origin and was, say, built at the time of the Armada scare, it will justify the investigation of tradition which the nineteenth century in so superior a manner failed to make.

The "General Reader."

People often use the phrase "general reader" without in the least knowing what sort of man he is, or even what he reads. Now certain London libraries have recently published reports on the kind of books most frequently read, and it is perfectly astonishing to find such constancy and loyalty among what must be called an unintelligent class. We learn, for instance, that Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (though there is little wrong with the early Sir Arthur) and Mr. Donovan are "extraordinarily popular," that facile sprites like Mrs. Henry Wood, Miss Braddon, Miss Marie Corelli, and Mr. Silas and Mr. Joseph Hocking still maintain their unworthy positions. It is, however, good to know that Wilkie Collins is very appreciatively read (few would have guessed that); it is still better to know that allegiance to Ouida is declining; and it hardly comes as a shock or surprise to be informed that "Hardy has still to be appreciated"—you can scarcely in one lifetime dethrone Ouida and enthrone Hardy.

The other notable feature of these libraries' reports is the stress that they lay on the amount of politics and economics now being read. This is, or is not, according to one's personal taste, regrettable; but, in any case, it was inevitable since religion had passed out as the chief factor in men's lives. A feature in the reports that I am surprised to find is the absence of any mention of fantasy, which is at the moment, and is to be for the next few years, a most popular form of writing. The Hawthornden Prize for Literature, for example, was this year given to the writer of a fantasy. But as against this is the fact that romance, and particularly historical romance (such as some of Anthony's Hope's novels), is still holding its own.

Alter Ego.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

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ARMENIANS AND THE TREATY OF LAUSANNE.

The Joint Council of British Armenian Societies has addressed an appeal to Lord Curzon on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Armenian refugees whose plight has been disregarded at the Lausanne Conference. The letter reads as follows:—

Your Lordship,

On behalf of British organisations interested in the welfare of the Armenians, we beg leave to express the hope that the signing of the treaty with Turkey may be the prelude to a new era of peace and prosperity for all the peoples of the Near East. The welcome decision of Turkey to apply for membership of the League of Nations gives some justification for this hope.

We cannot, however, forget that the Allied Powers, for well known reasons, promised the Armenian people their national freedom—promises which were welcomed by all civilised nations. These promises remain unfulfilled; but we respectfully maintain that the debt of honour thus contracted cannot be repudiated, and must be discharged in the only way the altered conditions allow.

In Greece and the islands, in Syria and Palestine, in Caucasian Armenia and elsewhere, there are scattered three-quarters of a million Armenian refugees, the only survivors of a once prosperous community of two million souls. The plight of these, and the fate of those others who lost life as well as home and property, indicate the heavy responsibility which rests upon the Allies. Such reparation as is humanly possible must be made to these suffering people. We suggest that His Majesty's Government should request the British representatives to the League of Nations to bring to the notice of the Assembly the unhappy condition of these victims of the Great War with a view to obtaining for them a solution by which they may be enabled to enjoy a reasonable measure of security and happiness.

We have the honour to be,
Your Lordship's obedient servants,
For and on behalf of

British Armenia Committee:
Noel Buxton, Joseph Bliss,
Robert Newman, C. Leonard Leese,

Friends of Armenia:
Edith C. Fraser, Lily Symington McLeod,
E. Wright Brooks, George F. Gracey,

Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund:
Herbert J. Ward, Edward Carlile,
Harold J. Buxton, Magda Coe,

John H. Harris (Hon. Sec.), Joint Council of British Armenian Societies.

"THE NEAR EAST" INDEX.—VOL. XXIII.

The Index to Volume xxiii. of The Near East (January 4—June 28, 1923) is now ready, and copies will be sent to subscribers on application to the Manager, The Near East, 167, Strand, London, W.C.2.

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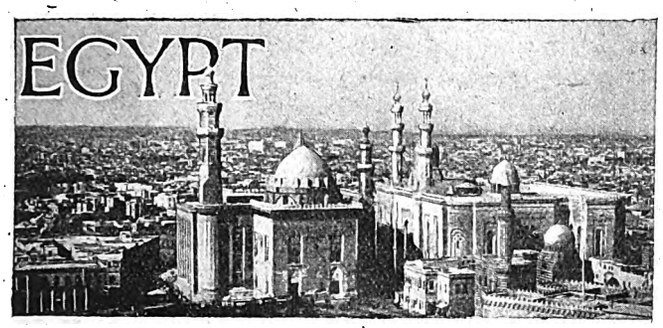
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, July 23.

Conspiracy Trial Sentences.

The Conspiracy Trial sentences, promulgated on Thursday last, have proved to be very nearly what general opinion had anticipated. It was obvious that a conviction must entail the death penalty for five or six of the accused, who were shown by the evidence not only to have plotted to kill British subjects, but also to have personally carried out the murders, or at any rate many of them. The first accused, Ibrahim Khalil Nazir, was proved to have participated in eight murderous attempts, two of which he carried out single-handed, and to have been privy to several others. At the same time, there had been some surprise that only one of the accused had been acquitted, and that feeling of surprise has now been shown to have been justified by the fact that the Confirming Officer has quashed two of the sentences and remitted another. While there has been a complete absence of vindictiveness in the British community over this trial, there is now general satisfaction that the authors of some of the most atrocious crimes have been brought to book. At the same time there is general regret that the more highly placed instigators of the murder campaign, who have undoubtedly existed in the background, have not been identified and made to suffer the same penalty as their wretched agents. With the exception of two of the convicted men, all those who have just been tried are youths of no social standing, and, apart from the definite evidence of the existence of well-to-do supporters at their backs, it has all along been very clear that inducement to commit the crimes has been supplied by men of different type from the actual murderers.

Perhaps one of the most interesting circumstances of the trial has been the further light shed on the difficulty of obtaining witnesses in this country. Reluctance to give evidence for the prosecution was understandable, in view of the experience of such witnesses in previous important trials by Military Courts, but evidence for the defence also could be obtained only with the greatest difficulty. With the exception of two or three witnesses, all those who appeared to testify on behalf of the accused were obtained by defending counsel through the good offices of the police and the Public Security Department. This unwillingness to appear in a court of law arises partly from the general dislike on the part of inhabitants of this country to having anything whatever to do with the police or anybody connected with the law, but also from a more specific fear of the treatment accorded to a witness. One of the Arabic papers, in discussing the other day the necessary qualities in a candidate for Parliament, said that any would-be representative of a provincial constituency should have had the experience of being called to the markaz as a witness and being clapped into prison and treated as a convict while the case was being investigated. Then he would properly appreciate one of the abuses from which the fellaheen suffer.

Mysterious Disappearances.

Another interesting feature of the trial was its revelation of the way in which vital documents and articles connected with criminal cases in this country mysteriously disappear. Several important records could not be produced in court, while it was shown that the stomach washings from four men who alleged that they had been poisoned, and who were examined at Kasr el Aini Hospital, did not reach the analyst until eight weeks after they had been taken. The poison which it was thought had been used was hyoscine, all traces of which disappear in less than eight weeks.

There have been two other recent instances of the vanishing of important and possibly incriminating records. A man named McLeod died in suspicious circumstances in Upper Egypt, and a report was made to the Ministry of the Interior. There it lay for sixteen months. When the matter eventually came to the notice of the British Consul action was taken at once, but the analyst's report showed that even if death had been due to the cause suspected, too long a period had since elapsed for the fact to be established by chemical investigations.

The third case was not merely a disappearance, but a transformation. A box, apparently containing chocolates, sent by a well-known drug trafficker, was seized in transit through the post and its contents found to be chocolate-coated cocaine. But something happened before the seized package reached the analyst, with the result that he discovered only harmless chocolate creams. Such occurences as these exemplify the difficulties of the authorities in conducting criminal investigations of all kinds in this country.

Cocaine Traffic.

Apropos of cocaine, it may be remarked that the existing laws are proving utterly ineffectual to stamp out traffic in this drug. A penal code which provides only light fines for illicit traders has no terrors for smugglers and vendors, who pay the penalties imposed out of their huge profits, and carry on as before. So ludicrously ineffective are existing deterrents that the police have almost lost interest in the traffic, it being mere waste of time to arrest an offender, who will be fined a hundred piastres and set loose to resume his trade.

Hitherto it had been generally supposed that most of the cocaine and morphine which find their way

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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into Egypt were smuggled in on vessels from Levant ports, working in conjunction with accomplices on shore. But the other day a big haul of the forbidden drug was made from a camel caravan which reached Port Said from the southern part of the Sinai Peninsula, indicating that the "dope" had been landed on the shores of the Red Sea. There is no doubt that the cocaine business is highly organised in this country. The consumption here is great, but there are always ample supplies available, and, owing to the immunity from police action which the retailers enjoy, it is possible for anybody who wants cocaine to get it without difficulty.

Not only cocaine dealers flourish in this tolerant country. The other day at Port Said a notorious hashish-den keeper was haled to court for the twentieth time and for the twentieth time paid the small fine imposed upon him. No doubt he has by now set himself up again in the business for the twenty-first time.

British Prestige.

Recent Consular Court proceedings in Alexandria have emphasised the fact—frequently commented upon by residents of long-standing—that there are just now in Egypt a good many British subjects whose modes of living are no credit to their nationality. In a country like Egypt, where there are so many nondescripts of various races and colours entitled to British protection, there are inevitably many of none too reputable character. But since the War a considerable number of British-born ex-soldiers and others have settled here, and many of them have been unable to obtain satisfactory employment of a permanent character. Some have gone so far off the rails as to get themselves deported. Last year five men were shipped off in a batch, and since then there have been other deportations. These were all men whose conduct brought them definitely within the range of the law, but there is a far larger number who, while perhaps doing nothing definitely illegal, are a standing discredit to their country of origin. Now that Egypt is evolving so rapidly politically it is more than ever necessary that the good reputation borne by Britons in this country shall be maintained. It is to be hoped, therefore, that it will be possible to induce men of the class to which I have referred either to change their ways or else to leave the country.

The Retirement of Borton Pasha.

Considerable regret in business circles, not unmixed with apprehension, is being aroused by the impending retirement of Borton Pasha, the P.M.G., which is now announced.

The Egyptian Post Office is no easy institution to manage, as correspondence in over fifteen different languages is handled daily, and each sender and addressee expects at least as good a service as obtains in his own country.

But it is on the financial side that the present régime has scored its principal successes. The introduction of the Collection Order Service, which has the entire confidence of merchants, who thereby deal "cash against documents" with their clients; of inland postal orders in varied colours for the benefit of illiterate fellaheen; and of the deposit account service, to obviate the necessity of business houses sending constantly to the Post Office over their transactions, which was recently introduced in the face of considerable opposition, and last year handled over £4,000,000, has in each case proved an immense boon. Moreover, it is remembered that in the upheaval of 1919 the postal staff alone remained at work and refused to join the strike of Government officials.

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PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, July 22.

Lawlessness.

The outbreaks of sporadic lawlessness, which began with the attack on the High Commissioner's escort at Lake Huleh, have now ceased. Any attempt to attribute to them, collectively or individually, any political significance (as appears to have been done in certain sections of the English Press) is misplaced. As has now been amply made clear, the Lake Huleh episode had no bearing whatever on Palestinian persons, Palestinian politics, or even on Palestinian crime, but was "merely" an act of "self-defence" by hard-pressed Syrian Druze brigands, seeking rest and safety in Palestine. The murder of Captain Swann was the act of an outlaw and criminal, and the more recent attack near Tulkaram on the party of railway officials travelling from Haifa to Ludd, resulting in the death of Captain Wigely and two employees, was plainly just an attempt at robbery on a considerably larger and more desperate scale than the occasional holds-up of cars on isolated roads. Even elements of the local Arab Press, avid for grievances, called-for or uncalled-for, have ceased to argue that these episodes arise from a political motive, and account for them by the impoverished state of Palestinians, ground down by mis-rule and excessive taxation. Jews, on their side, have complained bitterly about the public insecurity in their National Home, and the ill-consequences it is having, or will have, in frightening away men and capital intent on the building up of their country. The speedy and effective means which the police took in running

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to earth the criminals concerned in the attacks on the members of the British Gendarmerie only made certain disgruntled Jews inclined to gibe at the Palestinian Police, to the effect that they were alert enough when they themselves were endangered, but were indifferent when it was the lives and property of the Jews which were at stake. I do not know on how good an authority the story was based, but a distinguished local Jew told how, on the occasion of Captain Swann's murder, the criminals first thought that their victim was a Jew, and asserted that they need not have too great fear as to the consequences, as the police hue and cry would not be too thorough; but when it was borne in upon them that this time it was an English officer whose death was in question, the matter took on quite another complexion; the band at once broke up and scattered.

Police Methods.

The police methods on this occasion soon proved fruitful of result; they levied a heavy daily fine on the district until the murderer should be discovered, with the result that the first fellah who became aware of the whereabouts of Abdul Kadir (the leader of the brigand gang) reported it to his village mukhtar—in spite of Abdul Kadir's promise that he himself would refund the amount of the fine the district would incur by keeping quiet about him! After Abdul Kadir had been shot by the police a memorandum was found in his possession giving details of his past victims and of the distribution of loot among his colleagues —together with a little list of intended victims.

Apparently no success has so far crowned the efforts of the police in tracking the band concerned in the attack on the railway officials. The gruesome detail of the headless body found afterwards means that the others feared identification through the recognition of one of their number. Even the extreme method of taking hostages of cattle from the neighbouring villages has so far had no effect in producing any culprits from the class of villagers. But the elaborate nature of the crime, and the necessary knowledge and preparation to derail that particular trolley containing that particularly large sum of money, hardly suggest that it was the act of fellaheen or even of the semi-professional brigand.

The Tel Aviv Squabble.

This last week saw a little labour squabble in Tel Aviv, the new Jewish suburb of Jaffa, which (to all appearances) has had too great importance attached to it in the telegrams sent to certain English newspapers; it certainly did not deserve the description "riot" which some have given it. A great deal of building had been going on during the last year or so in Tel Aviv; when the need for building grew less, as was the case during the past few months, a certain amount of unemployment naturally resulted. A certain organised group of Jewish workmen known as the "Poel Mizrachi" (the "Mizrachi" is an east-European Zionist organisation which gives a prominent place in its system to the observance of the orthodox Jewish religion) still had some outstanding contracts to complete. They were regarded with envious eyes by the unemployed of the larger, general workmen's trades union; and this latter group resented work being given to the minority (or representatives of a minority) in preference to representatives of the unemployed belonging to the larger union. Their grievance seems hardly such as to arouse sympathy, but they seemed to think that the ethics of employment had been violated, and forcibly interrupted a group of the "Poel Mizrachi" engaged on one of their contracts. The British Gendarmerie and Arab police were called in to restore order; and that seems to have been the worst crime of all—that "foreign police" should be appealed to, to intervene in Jewish internal disputes, and that in the most exclusive and treasured Jewish centre of the whole National Home. The police intervention was vigorous—too vigorous for the tastes of the Jewish Labour Party, who are now passing resolutions and publishing manifestoes charging the police with attacking a peaceful crowd of innocent civilians without warning, and "making the streets of Tel Aviv run with blood." More than twenty of the workmen concerned were arrested and sentenced to a week's imprisonment (by a non-Jewish magistrate!); but they have since been released on bail pending an appeal.

The episode, as we said before, is quite unimportant; it is only interesting as local colour.

The Patriarchate.

French publicity is being given to the long-standing dispute within the Jerusalem Patriarchate of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Historically, the Jerusalem Patriarchate is, and has been for many centuries, virtually nothing more than a convent of monks (who elected from their own number Patriarch, titular Metropolitans and Archimandrites) entrusted with the guardianship and maintenance of the Holy Places in Jerusalem and elsewhere in Palestine, supported financially by the Christians of Greece, and drawing for its personnel also from the same source; from another point of view, however, the Patriarchate may be looked upon as a Greek-speaking hierarchy, administering a fairly large geographical area, and acting as spiritual head of some fifty thousand Arab-speaking Orthodox Christian laity This Greek hierarchy (properly known as "The Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre") has, during past years, run heavily into debt from various causes, and its pastoral works—schools, hospitals, charity and the like—have consequently suffered. Very extensive pieces of Orthodox Church landed property have had to be sold—almost in every case to various Jewish societies (this is a standing Arab grievance; but these properties had to be sold, and there were no other large buyers): and the financial affairs have been placed in the hands of a committee appointed as a result of the Government Commission on Patriarchal Affairs which sat in 1921.

The Arab-speaking Orthodox laity feel that they have a large number of legitimate grievances, and this past week they have been holding a Conference

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at Haifa. They passed resolutions under some forty heads, mainly directed towards introducing lay (and therefore Arab) influence and control in Patriarchal affairs and securing a greater efficiency in the financial administration of the Patriarchate, and more advantages in the way of educational facilities for the children of the laity.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 23.

The Mission of M. Bratianu.

M. Vintila Bratianu has returned to Bucharest, and the Press generally has commented with impatience upon his reticence and the delay in making any public statement as to the success of his mission, taking his silence as spelling failure and taunting him with the unpopularity, real or supposed, which his party's policy has gained for this country abroad. This unpopularity, in so far as it may exist, cannot perhaps all be laid at the door of the Liberal Party, as British and other exporting firms can doubtless explain, but certainly the series of laws passed during last session have not tended to increase the confidence of foreign capitalists in this country or to encourage foreign enterprises or even foreign trade. It was apparently very generally believed that M. Bratianu had gone abroad with the idea of trying to raise a loan against concessions either of the State forest or petroleum lands, but he has now expressly denied that he had any such purpose, although, as stated last month, the *Indépendance Roumaine*, the semi-official organ of the Liberal Party, stated on his departure that one of the objects of his journey was "to find, in the form of a loan, the capital required by the State to collaborate with private Roumanian industry in the development of the timber industry, etc." M. Bratianu expresses himself as satisfied with the results of his journey, and says that he has succeeded in convincing the politicians and others in France and England with whom he came in contact of the rightness of Roumania's national policy, as represented chiefly by his Government.

Recent Government Measures.

However that may be, not everyone concerned is satisfied with some of the recent Government measures. The French and Czech Press characterise as an "act of brigandage" the moratorium granted to Roumanian debtors by the law passed last month, and warn the Minister of Finance that French and Czech creditors "do not intend to submit without a struggle to the confiscation of their fortunes." According to the Press of last week some modification of the law may be expected, to the effect that only those creditors may seek its protection who are really not in a position to pay their debts in high valuta. This, however, will probably prove rather a difficult point to settle.

The *Temps* also comments very severely on the recent law regarding the liquidation of ex-enemy property, stating that in its effect upon Transylvanian properties it is contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Peace. The Hungarians, who will be the chief sufferers under the law, are doubtless hoping to be able to press this argument.

The anti-speculation law, previously mentioned, has caused great discontent among the shopkeepers in this country, one of its most obnoxious provisions being that which requires that prices be affixed to all goods, the penalty for non-compliance being very severe indeed. The law has apparently been rigorously enforced in Constantza, where fourteen merchants have been summoned under this article. A protest meeting was held last week, and a memorandum was read, which it was intended to present to the Minister of Industry and Commerce during his visit to that town. The memorandum protested notably against the methods of administration of the law and demanded greater clearness in the drafting of the articles. The delegation which presented the memorandum was accompanied by 500 of the local shopkeepers, and on the following day during the hours of the trial of the fourteen "victims" all the Constantza shops were closed in protest.

M. Theodore Rosetti.

The death took place last week of M. Theodore Rosetti, at the age of 86, one of the last contemporaries of Cuza Voda, the great Roumanian patriot of the middle of last century.

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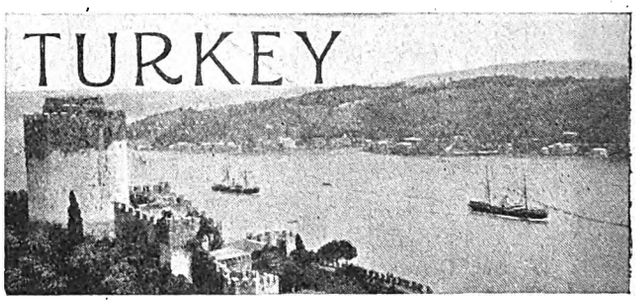

Constantinople, July 31.

Peace Celebrations.

During the past week the Government offices were closed every day except Saturday, and "grandiose manifestations" took place. On Wednesday there were official receptions by H.M. the Khalif, by Adnan Bey, by Selaheddin Adil Bey, the Military Governor, and, in addition, special memorial services were held in all mosques in memory of the fallen. These services were attended by all the corporations and guilds, who formed large processions through the principal streets. Vehicular traffic was suspended from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in order to give the employees of the tramway company the opportunity of participating in the celebrations. The whole proceedings, although not very impressive, were orderly, and great credit is due to the city police for the admirable way in which they marshalled the manifestants.

The Assembly.

The next move in the complicated process of making peace is the ratification by the Grand National Assembly of the engagements assumed by their plenipotentiary at Lausanne. The latest reports concerning the meeting of the new Assembly indicate that it is unlikely to assemble before August 12. August 2 had been freely hinted as the fateful date; but there are still about sixty Deputies unelected, and, although news from the Eastern vilayets is scanty, it is certain that great difficulties are being experienced by the Government Party in its efforts to make these constituencies swallow its nominees. However, the Government Press is laying stress upon the necessity of convoking the

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Assembly at the earliest possible moment in order that the preliminary business may be transacted, and the question of the ratification of the Treaty settled. There appears to be no doubt that Ismet's Treaty will be formally approved.

Various prominent members of the Government are either *en villégiature* or touring the country. Mustapha Kemal Pasha is resting in Smyrna, and is expected to go for a few days to the local watering-place, Tcheshme. Hussein Reouf is just off to see his constituents at Sivas. Ismet Pasha is still bargaining with the Americans at Lausanne, and is not expected back here for about a week. Hence it is probable that the Press prognostications concerning the date of the convocation of the Assembly have some foundation in fact.

Press on the Peace.

The comments on the peace by the various organs of the Constantinople Press have on the whole been fairly reasonable. Now and again there has been a suspicion of the feeling which the old countryman attributed to his dog in Dr. John Brown's story: "Life's full of sairiousness for him, puir beastie; he can just never get eneugh of fechtin'." The overwhelming majority of Turks, however, has had "eneugh of fechtin'," and they are realising that peace has its problems which have to be tackled. The most serious paper in Constantinople, the *Tanin*, has given the lead by approaching the question of the collective responsibility of the Council of Commissaries. As Hussein Djahid Bey rightly points out, the first National Assembly was an abnormal phenomenon, and the theory that the Commissaries (or ministers) are merely the *porte parole* of the Assembly without any collective responsibility and without individual initiative, is exploded, for, as a matter of fact, they have taken measures upon their own responsibility, otherwise nothing would have been accomplished either in internal or external affairs. He goes on to point out that one of the first and fundamental tasks of the new Assembly will be to modify the mode of election of the Commissaries, obviously with the object of bringing the system of government more nearly into line with that which obtains in the majority of European countries.

Internal Problem.

Meanwhile, there is urgent need of practical statesmanlike resolution of a mass of internal problems, of which the principal are finance and the minorities. These two are much more closely allied than it appears on the surface. The State finances are in such a chaotic condition that the State officials in Constantinople were not paid before the feast of Kourban Bairam. Even the bankrupt Constantinople Government used by hook or by crook to raise enough money to do that. The rate of sterling exchange is steadily rising; the expected appreciation of Turkish currency for sentimental reasons on the signature of peace was hardly perceptible, and now the principal influences at work are the enforced covering of bear operations, the imminence of Allied evacuation, which will enormously reduce the amount of sterling available on the market, and general pessimism concerning the country's prospects.

The connection between the financial question and that of the minorities is very close, for it cannot be denied that it is the non-Moslem population, not only in Constantinople, but in Anatolia, which has shown commercial and financial enterprise and skill, and under present conditions it is obvious that their most prudent course is to restrict their operations and export their capital from Turkey. Matters have reached a critical stage in the fig industry, which used to be a gold mine for part of the Aidin vilayet and the port of Smyrna. At a recent conference at Kara Pinar it was stated that owing to present conditions the cultivator cannot afford to pay the railway and packing charges, and cannot raise the money to do so. Thus the crops are rotting on the trees, and the loss to the country is estimated at five and a-half million Turkish pounds, which would have helped to support the Turkish exchange. This is but one example of many which might be cited.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

THE DURAND LINE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—In opening the discussion on Sir Hamilton Grant's lecture to the East India Association on July 16, I said that Sir Mortimer Durand had asked for trouble in 1894 when he proposed the creation of a "No Man's Land" on the North-Western Frontier; and I suggested its division between India and Afghanistan. The lecturer attributed the perennial unrest that prevails there to the tendency of population to outstrip the supply of food. . . . "If the Indo-Afghan frontiers were conterminous we should be able to increase the cultivable area of the territory assigned to us by creating systems of irrigation; to suppress blood-feuds and give this much-vexed region the blessings of peace. Emulation is the mainspring of progress; it is quite possible that the good example set by Great Britain might be followed across the border."

Sir Edmund Barrow, in his concluding remarks, said that the Scottish Highlands were pacified after '45 by piercing them with military roads. But the roads to which the distinguished chairman alluded were constructed by Field-Marshal Wade twenty years *before* that rising; and proved most useful to the military operations for suppressing it. The methods adopted by George the Second's Ministers for destroying the tribal organisation were unjust, cruel, but terribly effective. They gave each Highland chief a fee-simple of the territory which had been from time immemorial a collective possession of his clan. The new landowners forthwith cleared their estates of crofters and turned the former into sheep farms. Readers of Dr. Samuel Johnson's "Journey to the Hebrides" may remember the reflections suggested by the spectacle of shipping on the west coast of Scotland waiting to convey cargoes of dispossessed Highlanders to Canada.—I am, etc.,

FRANCIS H. SKRINE.

August 3.

The Life-Saving Medal in bronze of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem is to be awarded to Rissaldar Moghal Baz and Khan Bahadur Kuli Khan for their bravery in assisting in the rescue of Miss Ellis, who was abducted by Afridis in April from Kohat.

Mr. Johnson, the representative appointed by the League of Nations to deal with the refugee question in Bulgaria, arrived in Sofia last week. He will continue the work of repatriating Russian refugees which was done by the recently expelled Soviet Red Cross Mission.

The recommendations of the Anglo-French Commission appointed to fix the frontier between Palestine and Syria from the sea to El Hammé have been accepted and ratified by the British and French Governments. They came into force on March 10, and are now officially issued in pamphlet form (Cmd. 1910) by His Majesty's Stationery Office.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE RELIGIONS OF THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST.

"SEMITIC RELIGIONS: HEBREW, JEWISH, CHRISTIAN, MOSLEM." By David M. Kay, D.D. Regius Professor of Divinity and Oriental Languages at the University of St. Andrews. (Edinburgh.: T. and T. Clark. 7s. 6d. net.)

The world's organised religions have been a factor of prime importance in the development of civilisation; and it is meet that they should be exhaustively studied. Sir James Frazer and his school have traced each phase in their evolution from animism, magic, the worship of nature-powers and ancestors, polytheism, and monotheism. Less attention has been given to the later history of religion and to its social influence; nor is the cause far to seek. The Law of Struggle applies with full force to theology, and, until recent years, the champions of rival creeds were unable to discern a grain of truth in any save their own. Orthodoxy, said Bishop Warburton, is *my* doxy, heterodoxy is other people's doxy. Hence the bigotry which nullified early mission effort; the abuse which was hurled at the Hindu Pantheon and at the Founder of Mohammedanism.

Scientific and archæological discoveries have widened the Christian's outlook and wrought a marvellous change in his attitude towards alien creeds. Sympathy is bred by deeper knowledge; most students realise that the religious instinct in the myriad manifestations should be treated with reverence; that all the world's organised religions are inter-related, and that no race has a monopoly of Divine truth. The new departure is illustrated by Professor Kay's sketch of the Semitic religions, which reproduces a series of lectures delivered by him in St. Giles's Cathedral during the early months of 1922. He traces their history objectively and without undue bias. Although he is evidently a sincere Christian, he is no slave to bibliolatry; and holds with St. Paul that "the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

For readers of THE NEAR EAST Professor Kay's treatment of Islam possesses absorbing interest. Its success in persuading its adherents to abstain from the use of wine was, indeed, a notable achievement, for:—

> A majority in any community may impose certain kinds of abstinence; but that is not temperance, because it is not governance of self by what is peculiar to self. Reason is often insufficient to restrain the appetites from satisfying themselves, although reason clearly foresees the disastrous effects of indulgence. By appealing in the name of Allah to the voluntary choice of his adherents, Mohammed succeeded where many zealous agencies have failed. . . .
>
> Judged by its fruits, Islam can claim a power over its adherents and a pervasive influence on their lives which contemporary systems attain only among their most zealous groups.

Again:—

> British Christians owe to themselves and to Islam the duty of understanding the rise and progress of this religion. Our circle of knowledge welcomes information about ancient Crete and Egypt, about primitive customs in New Guinea and Tibet. There is a richer intellectual stimulus in appreciating the spiritual forces that emerged from Arabia, captured and held the devotion of so many diverse races, and are still throbbing with vitality.

But Professor Kay overshoots the mark when he asserts that Islam was not propagated by the sword. It is true that within a century of the Founder's death it had conquered half the known world and ruled from Samarkand to Gibraltar; that, unlike Alexander's ephemeral empire, those of the Khalifs enjoyed a splendid civilisation for five hundred years; and that the power of Islam to win converts has long survived the destruction of its aggressive forces. Professor Kay, however, ignores the bigotry of the fierce Seljuk Turks, who allowed no dissidents in conquered territory; he forgets the fact that the Abbaside and Fatimid Khalifs were quite as intolerant as Philip II. and Louis XIV. History belies his assertion that the seventy million Indian Moslems "were won by an appeal to their heart and mind." Every wave of Mohammedan invasion which swept over India between the eleventh and the fifteenth centuries was followed by forcible conversions. The Puritan Emperor Aurungzib held no pact with idolaters, and the great bulk of the Mohammedan population of Bengal descend from Hindus whom his Satraps forced to abandon the religion of their forbears. "It was by the alienation of native races," wrote Sir William Hunter, "that the Mughal empire perished; it is by the incorporation of those races into a loyal and united people that British rule will endure."

F. H. S.

IRRIGATION IN INDIA.

'IRRIGATION IN INDIA.' (India of To-day Series.) By D. G. Harris (London: H. Milford. 3s. net.)

This little book of 100 pages deals admirably with its subject, and our only complaint is that the subject is not accurately indicated by the title. The writer has confined his attention to the irrigation-canals managed by the Governments of British India. He thus excludes the great bulk of the irrigation in Indian States, and the vast amount of irrigation done in British India from private works, while he does not say a word about the agricultural aspects of irrigation, aspects which are not less important than those with which he deals. The title is thus about three times too big; but anyone who wants a concise and non-technical sketch of the development of the State irrigation-works in British India will find the book entirely satisfactory. The only doubtful statement we have noticed is to the effect that the old Hissar Canal was remodelled by Ali Mardan Khan in 1626; Ali Mardan Khan did not enter Shahjahan's service until 1637, and according to the chroniclers the work in question was sanctioned ten years later.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"The Man Behind." By G. B. Burgin. (London: Hutchinson and Co., 7s. 6d.)

King Faisal, after visiting his brother, the Emir Abdullah, in Amman, returned to Baghdad on August 2.

The extensive repairs to the Hejaz Railway have been completed between Amman and Mederia, and the times of the resumed train service will be announced shortly.

Trans-Jordania, which has hitherto used postage stamps of Palestine specially over-printed *Sharq ul Urdun* (East of Jordan), is now to issue its own stamps with designs of the Emir Abdullah's palace and an Arab riding a camel.

A Blue Book issued last Thursday contains the text of the Treaty of Peace with Turkey, which was signed at Lausanne last month. The volume also includes copies of agreements made between Greece and Turkey, which were signed on January 30 last, together with subsidiary documents forming part of the Turkish Peace Settlement.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 9 (New Style).
July 27 (Old Style).
Dulheggia 25, 1341 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ab 26, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaja of Rajpipla has left London for Paris.

Sir Herbert Samuel left London on July 31 for the Continent.

M. Venizelos is spending the rest of the summer in Switzerland.

Mr. M. G. S. Khapardi left London in the P. and O. liner Paldera on August 3 for Bombay.

Princess Antoine Bibesco arrived last Thursday at 13, Hyde Park Gardens, from The Wharfe, Sutton Courtenay.

Captain Douglas Capitaneano, formerly Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, has left London for Worksop.

Sir Horace Rumbold, British High Commissioner in Constantinople, left London last Thursday for the Continent.

Major Alan Saunders, M.C., Commandant of the Samaria District Police, left for England on summer leave towards the end of last month.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco left London on August 2 for Geneva. M. Radu T. Djuvara, Counsellor, will act as Chargé d'Affaires.

During the absence abroad of the Minister for the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, the First Secretary, M. C. Fotitch, will be in charge of the Legation.

Hassanein Bey arrived at Cairo on August 1 on his return from his journey through the Libyan Desert to Darfur, and left for Alexandria, where he had audience with King Fuad.

Colonel and Mrs. Leslie Wilson have left 3, Buckingham Gate and gone to Glebelands, Wokingham, Berks, which will be their address until they leave for Bombay on November 22.

India will be represented at the Imperial Conference by the Secretary of State for India, Colonel H.H. the Maharaja of Alwar, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, K.C.S.I.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru left London on August 3 for Paris. He will be on the Continent for a month, and after a further short holiday in the Lake District will come to London in the middle of September for the Imperial Conference.

A Reuter's Simla message states that Lord Chelmsford having declined the invitation to head the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations Assembly this year, the mission has been offered to Lord Hardinge, who has accepted it. The other two representatives for India will be Lieut.-Colonel H.H. the Maharaja Jam Sahib of Nawanagar, G.C.S.I., G.B.E., and Mr. Sayid Hassan Imam.

Sir M. M. Bhownaggree gave a dinner party on August 1 at the Ritz Hotel, at which there were present the Maharaj Kumar of Jhalawar, the Raj Rana Fatchsiniji, the Yuvaraj of Limbdi, the Raj Rana Mansinhji, Viscount Peel, Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, Lord Lamington, Sir Thomas Holderness, Bart., General Sir E. Barrow, Sir William Sheppard, Sir Trevedryn Wynne, Sir Malcolm Seton, Sir E. Chamier, Sir George Lowndes, Sir P. D. Pattani, Sir James Brunyate, Sir Arthur Hirtzel, Sir Marshall Reid, Sir Claude Hill, Colonel Leslie Wilson, M.P., Colonel Bannerman, and Mr. F. H. Brown.

To meet Colonel Leslie Wilson, Governor-Designate of Bombay, Sir Thomas and Lady Bennett gave a reception on the terrace of the House of Commons last week. Mrs. Wilson was unavoidably prevented from being present. In addition to Sir William Joynson-Hicks, Earl Winterton (Under-Secretary for India), and other House of Commons friends, the guests included many prominent Indians, among whom were: The Maharaj-Kumar of Jhalawar, the Kumar Shri of Limbdi, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir Ali and Lady Imam, Sir Prabashankar Pattani, Sir Rajendranath and Lady Mookerjee, the High Commissioner for India and Mrs. Dalal, Sir M. M. Bhownaggree, and Sir Dorab and Lady Tata.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1923.

THE SINAIA CONFERENCE.

The recent conference at Sinaia between representatives of Czecho-Slovakia, Roumania, and Yugoslavia will prove, it is to be hoped, a definite landmark in the rehabilitation of South-Eastern Europe. Although no striking decisions were taken, the general trend of the meeting, as far as can be judged from the published reports, was towards the adoption of a more conciliatory attitude on the part of the Little Entente in foreign affairs. Thus in regard to Hungary it was agreed that no obstacle should be placed in the way of her financial reconstruction. No doubt this somewhat negative concession will be hedged around with restrictions; but it marks an advance on the former attitude of the three powers concerned towards Hungary. On the subject of Bulgaria the Conference seems to have avoided anything in the nature of a concrete resolution. The attempt, however, to commit the Little Entente in effect to an active anti-Bulgarian policy, if such an attempt were made, must have failed, and the sense of the meeting would seem to have been in favour of a more friendly attitude towards the new régime in Bulgaria. If the spirit of the conference has been accurately reflected, it is a gain to the cause of peace to have a policy of instinctive hostility replaced, if only by a readiness to judge future developments on their merits. The former argues a complete absence of statesmanship, and closed the door to any prospect of a better era in Balkan history; the latter frame of mind leaves the way open to a gradual improvement in international relationships. Conditions in Western Europe have their counterpart in many respects in the Little Entente, but with the important difference that there is no equivalent in South-Eastern Europe to the potential danger that Germany must always be to France. Yugoslavia can point out that she is more directly affected by the menace of a Bulgarian *revanche* than are Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania; but she would not appear to have been able to convince either of her partners at Sinaia that there was any justification for the least anxiety on this score. No one urges that the Yugoslav Government should expose its country to the slightest risk; it is asked merely to examine in the light of common sense what it is inclined to regard as a danger, in view of the fact that the alleged danger is seen by everyone else to be non-existent. The possibility of an understanding with Bulgaria under the Stambolisky régime having been recognised in Belgrade, Yugoslavia's partners seem to have persuaded her at Sinaia not to rule such a possibility out of court now, simply because there is a new Bulgarian Government, but to give the Bulgarians time to show whether the same basis for an understanding still exists, and, if not, whether they can offer a satisfactory one in its place.

At best the Sinaia results were of a negative order, and for practical purposes they must be followed by a more definite policy in one quarter or another. The inevitable tendency will be to await the results of the Ruhr crisis owing to the fact that no one can foresee what direction developments in the West are likely to take. This delay, we are convinced, would be a mistake, as it might help towards a clarification of the Western situation, if it were realised that in no circumstances can complications in Central or South-Eastern Europe be relied upon to exert even an indirect influence on the affairs of the Greater Entente. Although the Sinaia Conference broke up without coming to any decision in regard to Bulgaria's claim for an outlet on the Ægean, there is no reason why the three Governments should not take the lead in an endeavour to arrive at a settlement on a question that materially concerns interests of the whole of South-Eastern Europe. The collaboration of Greece, it has been announced by the Foreign Minister of Yugoslavia, was desired by the Conference, but not as a member of the Little Entente, in case the latter should be committed to an enlarged programme. Whether Greece will be content with a place "below the salt" at Conferences of the Little Entente remains to be seen; but practically all danger of an enlarged programme would be removed if Greece were helped to put her foreign relations on a satisfactory basis. In other words, now that peace between Greece and Turkey has been established without fear of any rupture for some years to come at least, there remain only the relations between Greece and Bulgaria as a possible complication, even if any issue between them could be regarded as constituting an enlarged programme for the Little Entente.

It is evident from the letter that Mr. Ronald McNeill, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, writes to *The Times* in amplification of his speech in the House of Commons just before the adjournment, that the Allies cannot be counted upon to reopen the question of an Ægean outlet for Bulgaria. Mr. McNeill, expressing, presumably, the views of the British Government, holds that Bulgaria has no right to claim a territorial corridor connecting her with the sea, and pointed out that, when the Bulgarian delegation at Lausanne indicated that it would accept nothing less, the Allies withdrew their offer of a harbour under Bulgarian administration, with a railway under international control, and "declined to put pressure on the Greeks to make further concessions to Bulgaria's unreasonable demands." In matters of this nature, as the Allied Governments are well aware, there is no hard-and-fast standard of what is right and what is wrong in regard to claims, or what demands are reasonable and what unreasonable. The Treaty of Neuilly belongs to a series of documents all of which have been proved to be grossly unjust in many of their provisions. In one particular—the amount of reparations—the Treaty has been amended because its terms were found on impartial examination to be outrageous. Is it so very wrong for the Bulgarians to suggest, and even to maintain with some persistence, that the clauses in the Treaty of Neuilly which debar them from a territorial corridor to the Ægean are equally outrageous? To charge Bulgaria with perversity in the light of Turkey's attitude towards the Treaty of Sèvres is merely childish. What is needed is an impartial examination of the Supreme Council's territorial settlement in the Balkans, in the light of practical politics, with a view to achieving permanent peace and in a spirit free from vindictiveness. No one is better qualified to take the lead in this delicate task than Dr. Benesh, of Czecho-Slovakia, who must realise that until the question is settled satisfactorily, there can be no real peace in the Balkans, and that the machinery of economic reconstruction will remain clogged.

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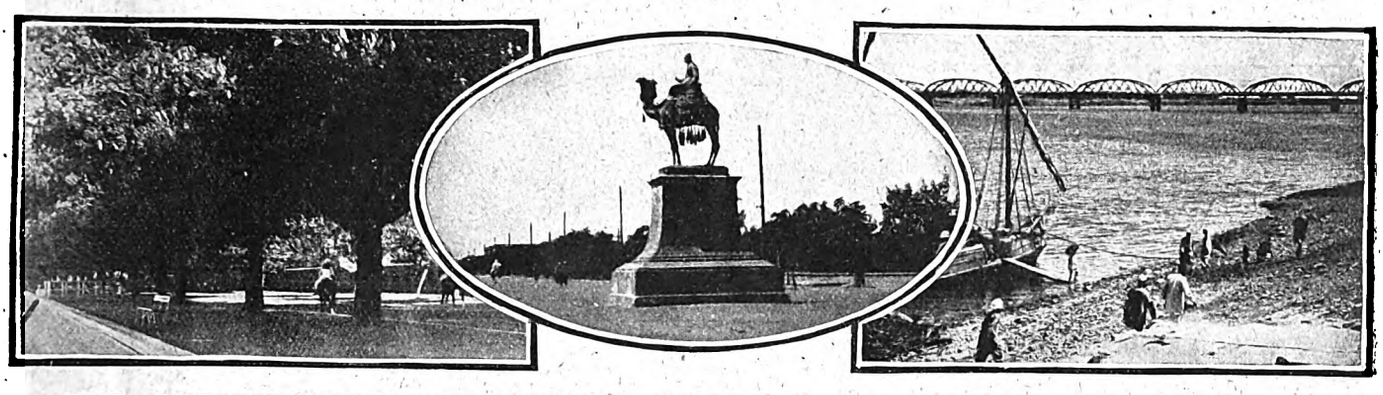
THE SUDAN—VI.



THE PRESERVATION OF AFRICAN BIG GAME.

Almost every territory in Africa under European administration has some form of protection for the fauna of the country. Until quite lately, however, there were large areas of the continent outside the reach of government, and as a result of the introduction of modern rifles the game in these parts has been in imminent peril of extermination. The problem of preservation is more difficult in some countries than in others, owing to the advance of civilisation and the influx of settlers. In places where it is possible for the white man to settle and to farm, the game will, sooner or later, have to give way; but there will still be large areas where the white man cannot live, which are a natural sanctuary for the game. It is owing to the shortsighted policy of certain Governments in allowing natives to acquire rifles and ammunition that in vast territories inhabited only by the natives the game is gradually being exterminated, as without a large staff of game rangers it is almost impossible to enforce any legislation.

Disappearing Fauna.

Within the memory of man four animals have become, to all intents and purposes, extinct—the quagga, the bontebok, the bleshok, and the white-tailed gnu—only a very few remaining, strictly preserved on one or two South African farms.

The white rhinoceros, which only a few years ago was common south of the Zambesi, is now restricted there to less than twenty living specimens. In 1836 Sir Andrew Smith, while travelling in the country north of the Magaliesberg, saw between a hundred and a hundred and fifty during a day's march; Captain F. C. Selous mentions that the white rhinoceros, which was by no means uncommon between 1873 and 1877, had in 1879 completely disappeared from the Upper Chobe Rivers. This animal, the second largest pachyderm in the world, still exists in fair numbers in the Sudan, where it is strictly preserved. Unlike its cousin, the black rhinoceros, it is a harmless, inoffensive creature that lives almost entirely on grass. It is blind and stupid, and is easily killed when once its spoor has been located. Its horn is much valued, especially in the East, where it is either turned into cups which are supposed to detect the presence of poison, or ground into a powder for the manufacture of a potent medicine.

The Elephant.

Although more plentiful than the rhinoceros, the elephant is in almost as great danger of extermination, if the present rate of destruction is allowed to continue. As long as there is a demand for ivory, so long will men use the elephant as a means of increasing their wealth. It is, however, a case of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Whereas only a few years ago tusks of over 100 lb. in weight were not an uncommon sight in the markets of such places as Omdurman, to-day if such a tusk be brought in, it is a topic of conversation for days. The old elephants carrying tusks of 100 lb. or more have gone; those with ivory of 80, 70, or 60 lb. are rapidly going; it will then be the turn of the young and virile bulls, and lastly the cows and the remnants of the herds.

In all territories under British authority every effort is being made to prevent this catastrophe, and a limit of 30 lb. weight for each tusk has been imposed on warrantable ivory. This limit will include automatically, with very few exceptions, all female elephants, inasmuch as cows are very rarely found carrying ivory of more than 25 lb. weight. So long as other nations, however, allow elephants to be killed with ivory of lesser weight,

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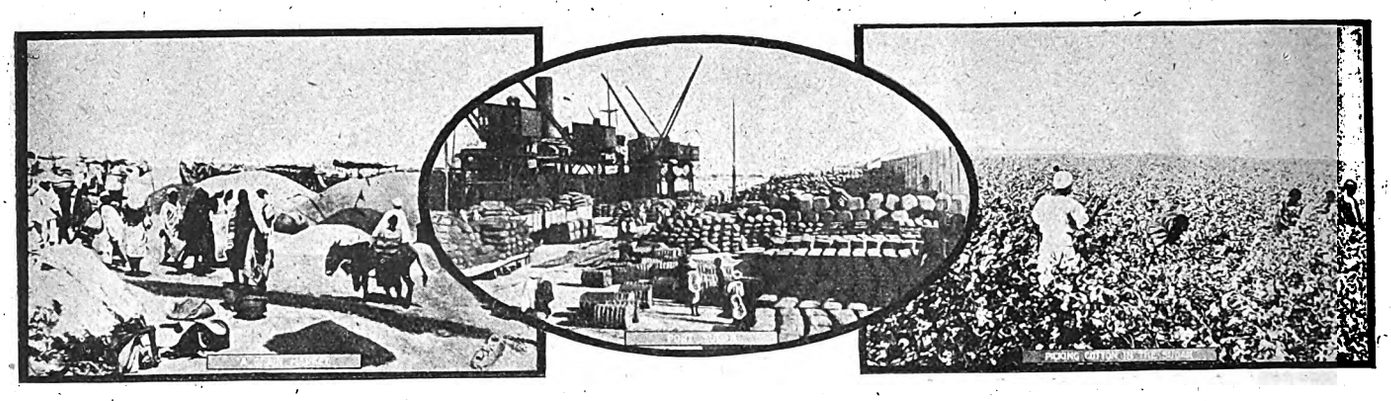
TRADE WITH THE SUDAN



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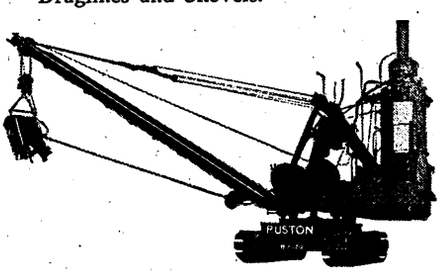

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(*Continued from previous page.*)

tusks will be taken across the frontiers and brought back as ivory obtained outside the country where the restrictions are in force.

Before the outbreak of the War efforts were being made by the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire to induce all nations concerned to establish an international weight for ivory applicable to all territories in Africa under European administration. If this could be done, all ivory under the stipulated weight would at once be confiscated by the Customs officials, and it would soon be realised that the destruction of female elephants and immature bulls was no longer profitable. At the same time it would be necessary to put a tax on all articles manufactured from ivory, most of which consists of female tusks, to prevent the tusks from being cut up before arrival at the Customs stations. As already stated, there are still large tracts of almost inaccessible country where the elephant and other game can find a natural sanctuary. This, however, is not sufficient, as elephants, in particular, travel huge distances and would soon be outside the limits of the preserve. Unlike most of the gazelles and antelopes the elephant is a slow-breeding animal; under normal conditions a cow might produce five calves in a lifetime.

In this connection, with this subject of game protection, reference may here be made to the Ordinance promulgated this year by the Sudan Government for the preservation of wild animals, a summary of which was published in The Near East of March 22. In addition to a number of regulations regarding the game that may or may not be killed, two areas, comprising 3,000 square miles each, have been defined as sanctuaries for all or certain kinds of animals. In these no one may hunt or kill. The district south of the Rejaf-Aba (Belgian Congo) road and west of the Bahr El Jebel is a reserve for all kinds of game, as is also the triangle in the Upper Nile Province formed by the Bahr El Zeraf, the Bahr El Jebel, and the White Nile. In the Sudan, fortunately, the officials are the very best type of sportsmen. Without their co-operation and assistance it would be quite impossible to enforce any regulations for the protection of the game.

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According to the *Monthly Journal* of the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, the arrivals of gum arabic during May were 26,052 kantars, all sold at El-Obeid market. This amount of arrivals at El-Obeid compared with the same period of the previous year is quite unusual. Arrivals at all other stations were also very abundant. Demands from abroad were much less than previous months, and consequently prices were all round lower; the average price at El-Obeid during May was £E1.370 mms.

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AN EARLY TRAVELLER IN THE SUDAN AND ABYSSINIA.

By "ABU NAKHLA."

The first instalment of this article was contained in "The Near East" of June 7. M. Poncet, whose travels are described in his book "A Voyage to Æthiopia. Made in the years 1698, 1699, and 1700," is just entering Abyssinia from the Sudan.—Ed.

These were long before the days when Menelik had made Shoa in the south supreme in the hegemony of States which comprise the Ethiopian Empire, and the capital lay in the north-west at Gondar, which is now no more than the capital of the Province of Gojjam. Yasu—whose name Poncet writes as Jesus—claimed the title of King of Kings, Negus Negusti, and evidently kept considerable state.

When I was recover'd of the Fatigues of so long and painful a Voyage, he (the King) did me the Honour to give me a publick Audience. It was on the tenth of *August*, about ten a Clock in the Morning. They waited on me at my Chamber, and after having conducted me thro' more than Twenty Apartments, I enter'd into a Hall, where the Emperour was seated upon his Throne. It was a Sort of Couch cover'd with a Carpet of red Damask flower'd with Gold; There were round about great Cushions wrought with Gold. This Throne of which the Feet were of Massy Silver, was plac'd at the Bottom of a Hall in an Alcove cover'd with a Dome all shining with Gold and Azure. The Emperour was cloath'd with a Vest of Silk, embroider'd with Gold, and with very long Sleeves. The Scarf with which he was girt was embroider'd after the same Manner, He was bare-headed, and his Hair braided very neatly. A great Emerald glitter'd on his Forehead, and added Majesty to him. He was alone in the Alcove I mention'd, seated upon his Couch with his legs across after the Manner of the Orientals. The great Lords were on each Side of him standing in their Ranks, having their Hands cross'd one upon the other, and observing an awful Silence.

Poncet then presented his credentials and the gifts to the Negus of which he was the bearer, and afterwards had the honour of dining with the King. It was customary that the King should attend in state at the Ceremony of the Feast of the Assumption, and this he failed not to do, in spite of the admitted inconveniences caused by the course of Poncet's physic on which he had now embarked. Poncet received an invitation to the ceremony, and—

fail'd not to be at it about eight a Clock, and found about twelve thousand Men drawn up in Rank and File in the great Court of the Palace. The Emperour was upon that Occasion clad with a Vest of blue Velvet flower'd with Gold which trail'd upon the Ground, his Head was cover'd with a Muslin strip'd with Gold, which fram'd a sort of Crown after the Manner of the Ancients, and which left the Middle of his Head bare; his Shoes were wrought after the Indian Fashion with Flowers beset with Pearls. Two Princes of the Blood richly cloathed, waited for him at the Palace Gate with a magnificent Canopy, under which the Emperour march'd with his Trumpets, Kettle-Drums, Flutes, Hautboys, and other Instruments going before him, which made a good agreeable Harmony. He was follow'd by the seven chief Ministers of the Empire, supporting each other under the Arms, and with their Heads cover'd almost like the Emperour, having each a lance in his Hand. He that walk'd in the Middle carry'd the Imperial Crown with his Head uncover'd, and seem'd to rest it with some Difficulty against his Breast. This Crown which is clos'd with a Cross of precious Stones on the Top is very magnificent. I march'd in the same Line with the Ministers habited after the Turkish Manner, and conducted by an Officer who held me under the Arm. The Officers of the Crown supported in the same Manner, followed singing the Praises of the Emperour, and answering as it were in Choires. Then came the Musketeers in their close-body'd Coats of different Colours, and were follow'd by the Archers carrying their Bows and Arrows. Last of all, this Procession was clos'd by the Emperour's led Horses richly harness'd, and cover'd with costly Stuffs of Gold hanging down to the Ground, over which were the Skins of Tygers extremely beautiful.

The Emperor was conducted to his place in the church by the Patriarch in full canonicals between lanes of priests clad in white. After the Emperor had received the Communion in both kinds the ceremony ended with the firing of two cannon. If we may trust Poncet's description, or even if we make considerable deductions from it, the Gondar of those times was a very considerable place :—

The Palace is great, and spacious, and the Situation very fine. It is in the Middle of the Town upon a rising which overlooks the Country round about; 'tis almost a League in compass; the Walls are of Free-stone flank'd with Towers, upon which are raised great Crosses of Stone. . . . Altho' the Extent of the Town be of three or four Leagues, yet it has not the Beauty of ours, nor can it have, because the Houses are only of one Story, and have no Shops.

All trade was carried on in the market-place, and the medium of exchange was gold bars, from which pieces were cut as required. Many assayers were available to test the gold and prevent fraud by the use of impure metal. Then, as now, salt was used for small change, but Poncet makes no mention of the Maria Theresa dollar, and cartridges had not, of course, yet made their appearance as currency.

We need not follow Poncet into his theological discussions with the Emperor and Patriarch, Abona Marcos. Abyssinia was, and still is, priest-ridden; in Gondar alone there were over one hundred churches, and the predecessor of Abona Marcos had at one sitting ordained ten thousand priests and six thousand deacons. On the other hand, we read that—

The Emperour *Ati Basili*, Grandfather to this Prince, who at this Time reigns so gloriously, caus'd Seven Thousand of them to be thrown head-long from the Top of the Mountain *Balbau*, for having revolted against him.

It seems possible that ordinations, though carried out on the grand scale, did little more than replace casualties. Poncet's account of the rise and fall of the Portuguese influence in Abyssinia is of interest :—

The Horror which the *Æthiopians* have for the Mahometans and Europeans is almost equal. The Occasion was this. The Mahometans having render'd themselves Powerful in *Æthiopia* in the beginning of the 16th Age, made themselves Masters of the Government. The Abyssins not being able to support so hard and so odious a Yoak as that of the Mohametans, call'd in the Portuguese to their Assistance, who at that time were famous in the *Indies*, where they had newly Establish'd themselves. These new Conquerors were overjoy'd to find a free Entrance into *Æthiopia*. They marched against the Mahometans encountered them, defeated them entirely, and resettled the Imperial Family upon the Throne. So important a Service render'd the Portuguese considerable at the Court of *Æthiopia*. Many of them planted themselves there and enjoy'd the principal Employs. Their Numbers increas'd, Corruption of Manners crept in, and they gave themselves such Liberties, that they rais'd a Jealousie in the Æthiopians, that they design'd to make themselves Masters of their Country and subject it to the Crown of *Portugal*. Upon this Suspicion, the People were in a Fury against the Portuguese; they took up Arms in all Places, and made a terrible Slaughter of them, at the Time they thought themselves most securely established in that Empire. Those who escaped from this first Commotion, had a Liberty allow'd to retire. There departed out of *Æthiopia* seven thousand Portuguese Families, who dispersed themselves thro' the *Indies*, and upon the Coasts of *Africk*. Some few remained in the Country, and from these Families do the white Abyssins descend who are amongst them, and from whence they pretend the present Empress, whom I mention'd before, draws her Origin.

(To be concluded.)

SUDAN COTTON PROGRESS.

The following particulars are given in the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for May :—

Kassala Province.

April.—The total cotton brought in to the market up to the end of April exceeded 6,355 kantars of 315 rotls, and the amount ginned was 4,895 kantars. Cotton still continues to come in very fast, and daily arrivals average about 200 kantars. There seems to be no doubt that the original estimate of 9,500 kantars will be exceeded. From April 1 the working hours in the ginnery

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have been increased to 10, and 140 kantars are ginned per diem. It is hoped later to increase the hours to 16 per diem; by this means possibly between 4,000-5,000 kantars will be ginned per month. The work on the lesser cuttings 10 and 11 of the main canal is proceeding slowly, but should be finished by the end of May. The delay is partly due to the demand for labour for the new Hadaliya and Mekali cuts. The seed farm should give an average of 3 to 3½ kantars per feddan. The experimental farm at Rabakassa has only produced about 1 kantar per feddan to date excepting American, which has produced 5 kantars per feddan.

May.—The total cotton brought in to the end of May is approximately 11,100 kantars. The quality of the cotton has shown a distinct falling off since May 10. The lower grades are increasing, and there is a marked falling away of first-class. The market will close finally on June 15, but for cotton brought in from June 5-15 the price will be reduced to P.T. 346 per kantar of 315 rotls. The last Wad Sharifai market will be held about the end of May. The results from this area are interesting. So far the first-class cotton has given 1,165 kantars out of a total of 1,365 kantars. The average yield will work out finally at 3 to 3½ kantars. The bulk of the cotton still to come in is from the late sown areas immediately north of Kassala and at the tail of the Delta. Tokar cotton ginned in May amounted to about 3,150 kantars. The experimental farm at Wad Sharifai was closed on May 9, the total yield from 10 feddans being 50 kantars. The highest yield was 5.5 kantars per feddan of Sakel from the unploughed part, whereas in 1922 the ploughed areas gave a heavier yield. This farm is now being ploughed in preparation for next season's crops. The Hadalya Farm is disappointing in comparison with the Wad Sharifai and Rabakassa; but it is hoped to obtain an average yield before the end of the season. At Rabakassa, the yield to date is 61 kantars from 19 feddans of cotton, and here American cotton has given a yield of 6.8 kantars per feddan to the end of May. Picking at Rabakassa is in full swing.

Blue Nile Province.

April.—Barakat and Tayiba cotton results are much the same as last year, but Hosh has only given about 3 kantars a feddan against 4 last year. This is due almost entirely to thrips. The American cotton crop of the province is estimated at 1,500 kantars, of which about 1,050 have so far been sold. It was not possible in the time available to supply seed to anything like all possible cultivators, and practically none was issued in Managil. One cultivator, however, got a big issue and sowed 80 feddans, which yielded about 70 kantars. The result has impressed the Managil people immensely, and there is a big demand for seed for next year. From the amount of Baladi cotton sown this year there is a prospect of quite a large crop of American if sufficient seed is distributed.

Red Sea Province.

Tokar Cotton Market.—The large daily arrivals which began late in April continued during May. The total cotton on the market was (in kantars of 100 rottles):—First class, 38,638; second class, 13,655; third class, 450; fourth class, 5. The total for the season is 104,000 kantars of 100 rottles, for which £E194,061 has been paid. The price dropped considerably about the 7th, partly owing to the fall in Liverpool prices, but more owing to the departure of Alexandria buyers from Tokar.

The purchase of 3,000 ardebs of seed for the 1924 crop was completed during the month. It was hoped to start sunning this all at Tokar on May 25, but water transport between Suakin and Trinkitat is very scarce, and up to date only about 500 ardebs have arrived. The Assistant Government Entomologist arrived on the 25th to superintend sunning. The quality of the cotton has remained unusually high for Tokar, over 60 per cent. first class still being obtained daily. Although large tracts in the Delta have ceased to yield, there are still considerable patches of late sown cotton, which should yield up to about June 20.

Berber Province.

Mikeilab Pumping Station Report.—April: 91 kantars were brought into store up to April 30. April—Shendi: The total yield to April 30, 1923, is 1,657 kantars of 315 rotls, an average of 2.68 kantars per feddan. There is still a small quantity to come in. Bouga Pumping Station Report.—April: American cotton yielded 159 kantars this month, giving a total of 1,713 kantars to the end of the month. Sakellarides yielded 23 kantars, giving a total of 160 kantars.

Dongola Province.

Ghaba Pumping Station Report.—April: Cotton received into store totals 1,286 kantars up to April 30, 1923, and represents an average yield of 3.67 kantars per feddan. Gurier Pumping Station Report.—April: Cotton is now finished. The average yield per feddan is 2 kantars. Nuri Pumping Station Report.—April: The cotton has so far yielded 3.5 kantars per feddan, 1,814 kantars have been brought in up to the end of April, and there is still a considerable quantity to be picked.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Crisis and Trade.

The statement by the Government with regard to the negotiations with our Allies over the Ruhr and Reparations makes it clear that the pourparlers have so far been productive of negative results. All things considered, it is perhaps not surprising that this should be so, seeing that France and ourselves view the question from very different angles. If France had our trade problem she would doubtless be much more willing to come to a settlement; but she is not experiencing the economic ills with which we are all too familiar and whose incidence promises to be increased as a result of the continuance of the European crisis. Not the least interesting part of Mr. Baldwin's address was his reference to the economic interdependence of nations, and in particular to the sensitiveness of this country to adverse Continental developments. We have had abundant demonstration of that, and one would think it ought by now to be overwhelmingly clear that there cannot be a real trade revival while nations are removed from the economic circle. If Central Europe is not in a position to take jute and other produce from India, then it inevitably follows that the purchasing power that India can devote to Lancashire goods is lessened, and the same applies in the case of Russia as a tea-consuming centre.

The Problem.

Mr. Baldwin gave an interesting example of this process in the case of Chile, pointing out that the inability of Germany to take nitrates from that country is bringing the Chilean international trade to a deadlock. It is, indeed, not difficult to multiply instances of the adverse effect on trade resulting from the present position. That is, unfortunately, only one aspect of the problem. There is, on the other hand, the question of future German competition, which no one who knows Germany's history and is familiar with present-day conditions in Germany can doubt will be inordinately severe. Sooner or later it will have to be faced, and our position in regard to it will be dependent on the extent to which we have been successful in forcing Germany to pay Reparations. That is where the rub comes in, and why one can well understand the attitude of those who counsel the policy of following France into the Ruhr, for unless Germany is made to pay adequate compensation we should compete against her at a hopeless disadvantage, owing to our own deadweight of debt.

Mr. McKenna.

Apparently Mr. Baldwin will have to renew his search for a Chancellor of the Exchequer, for while nothing has been announced on the subject, it is generally understood that Mr. McKenna has decided after all to remain in the City. It is the City's gain, but very decidedly the Government's loss, for the accession to its ranks of Mr. McKenna at the Treasury would have been a very great source of strength. The reason for Mr. McKenna's decision will doubtless be the subject of much speculation, and it may, and possibly quite incorrectly, be assumed that he has not viewed the developments of the Government's political and financial policy since May (when he signified his willingness to accept the post) with unmixed favour. But the reason, whatever it is, is after all quite immaterial and a matter for speculation of much greater interest is the identity of the next Chancellor. Unfortunately, those who would be the most satisfactory choices for the Treasury are too deeply immersed in business responsibilities to be in the running.

A Loss to London Commerce.

It is with great regret that I learn of the death on August 3 of Mr. C. E. Musgrave, for so many years Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce. Practically the whole of Mr. Musgrave's career was spent in the service of the Chamber, which he joined in 1882 at the age of twenty-one. Two years later he became assistant secretary, and in 1909 secretary. Of Mr. Musgrave's work at the Chamber it would be impossible to speak in too high terms. To his able organisation is very largely due the extension of the influence and sphere of activity of the Chamber, and one can pay no more fitting tribute than to say that through the Chamber he was able to do a great work on behalf of British trade.

Trade with Yugoslavia.

On the whole Captain Murray Harvey's report on Yugoslavia, extracts from which will be found in another column, is quite encouraging as regards the prospects of British trade with that country. In Yugoslavia, as in the other Balkan countries, conditions have unfortunately been very adverse to trade development during the past few years, but in every one of the countries the position is slowly changing for the better, and it is essential that our merchants and manufacturers should remain on the alert to take advantage of the improving outlook. If there is any failure in this respect the markets will simply go to more enterprising rivals, probably Germany, evidences of whose activities in the Near East have been only too frequently available of late.

Montenegrin Coupon Arrears.

Holders of bonds in the Montenegrin Five per Cent. Government Loan have not had long to wait to know where they stand as regards the resumption of the payment of interest. Last week it was announced that coupons Nos. 26 and 27, due

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January 1, 1923, and July 1, 1923. respectively, will be paid on and after August 13 at the offices of Messrs. Boulton Brothers and Co., 39, Old Broad Street, E.C. As regards the coupons representing interest in arrears for the years July, 1915, to July, 1922, a further announcement will be made as soon as a definite communication has been received from the Yugoslav Government. The action of the Yugoslav Government in arranging to meet the two coupons so promptly has most favourably impressed the City.

COMMENTATOR.

DEATH OF MR. CHARLES E. MUSGRAVE.

It is with great regret that we have to announce the death, after a short illness, on August 3, at a nursing home, of Mr. Charles E. Musgrave, F.C.I.S., secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce (Incorporated).

Mr. Musgrave, who was in his 63rd year, entered the service of the London Chamber in 1882, having previously been on the staff of the *City Press* and the *Citizen*, of which latter journal he was sub-editor in 1881. He was appointed assistant secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce in 1884 and secretary in 1909 on the retirement of Mr. Kenric B. Murray from that position. Both in connection with and apart from that office, Mr. Musgrave was concerned in many important movements of a national and imperial character. He was secretary of the British Imperial Council of Commerce, an Association of all the Chambers of Commerce in the British Empire, in which capacity he organised the Eighth Congress of Empire Chambers of Commerce in London in 1912, and assisted in organising the Ninth Congress at Toronto in 1920; he was general secretary of the Timber Trades Federation of the United Kingdom and of the London Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board, and honorary secretary of the British Roumanian Chamber of Commerce. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, he was elected president of that body for the year 1921-1922. He frequently appeared as a witness before Parliamentary and Departmental Committees and Royal Commissions, and was joint author of a book on the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. He also wrote a history of the London Chamber of Commerce from 1881 to 1914. Amongst other things he was honorary secretary of the City of London Branch of the Royal Society of St. George (which he assisted in founding), and later vice-chairman of the branch; a Liveryman of the City of London and a member of the Court of the Turners' Company; a Freemason (Authors' Lodge); Chevalier of St. Anne of Russia, conferred upon him by the late Emperor of Russia on the occasion of his visit to Cowes in 1909; and Officer of the Crown of Roumania. Mr. Musgrave's death will be mourned by a wide circle of business and personal friends.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date August 1:—

Currants.—The position continues pretty much as described in our last report, and it has been difficult for some time past to apprehend exactly what is influencing the trade in its policy of abstention. The available supplies in first hands on June 30 were extremely light (1,918 tons), and when account is taken of the fact that there were no fresh arrivals during July, and that wholesalers, dealers, and grocers are carrying no stocks, there was justification for the hope that the long-delayed demand would at last materialise. Latterly some anxiety has been manifested by merchants to make progress, and concessions were made to encourage business, but with poor response from buyers, who persist in purchasing only sufficient for their immediate requirements. Where business has been possible it has centred chiefly round cleaned varieties at 56s. to 58s., which marks a decline of about 2s. per cwt. Limited transactions are also recorded in Gulf at 56s. to 58s., Panariti at 60s., Vostizza at 60s. to 65s., and a few fine Smalls at 70s.

Raisins.—Cape, after realising f.a.q. 38s., 40s., g.a.q. 42s., 45s., are easier at 36s. to 38s., following on the decline in Australian Lexias, which are offering at 40s.

Sultanas.—The pronounced downward tendency which developed has not been accompanied by the improved demand which might well have been looked for at the reduced level of values now established. Some excellent fruit of fresh keeping quality was disposed of from 60s. to 65s., which shows a drop of 15s. per cwt., and good ordinary fruit has been pressed for sale at shillings below the figures named without attracting attention, while Greeks at 60s. to 65s. have also failed to elicit any response.

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, July 23.

The Agricultural Position.

The *Economist* of July 7 publishes an article on the comparative cereal sowings of Roumania and Hungary, and draws the conclusion, from the fact that the sowings in Hungary have decreased during the past three years while those of Roumania have increased, that the agrarian reform in Roumania has on the whole been advantageous, for Hungary still remains "an island of vast estates in a green sea of 'agrarian reform.'" This conclusion, however, hardly appears to be well founded, considering how many other important factors have to be taken into consideration. The area of Roumania has been about doubled since the war, and she has acquired rich agricultural provinces and rich industrial areas, which ought, in the natural course of things, to give a great impetus to her progress. Hungary, on the other hand, has lost some of her richest districts, and has undergone a political revolution, both of which facts have tended to disorganisation. It would, indeed, have said little for Roumania if she had not been able to increase her cereal sowings since 1920, when they fell so very far short even of the normal area sown in Old Roumania before the war. Even today, according to the article of M. Carabella, of the Ministry of Agriculture, quoted last month, there still remain about 1½ million hectares of available grain land unsown in this country. Further, the wheat and rye crops of Hungary have steadily increased since 1920, whereas those of Roumania have decreased, and these are the most valuable crops. The reasons for the decrease of these crops in Roumania are well known: they are (a) the peasant's preference for maize and forage crops, and (b) the Government fixed prices and restrictions on the sale and export of wheat and rye.

Harvest Prospects.

It is not expected that the harvest will be more than an average one. The torrential rains and hailstorms which have occurred during the past month have done a great deal of damage to many of the crops, although the maize has probably benefited rather than otherwise so far. In some districts the vines, fruit, and other crops have been completely destroyed, while in others the losses are less severe. The comparatively small quantity of wheat sown is noticeable as one travels through the country, and the crops of barley and oats are rather thin and short owing to the long drought in the spring up to the end of May. The heat wave has now reached this country, but it has not been so severe as in England and France. It has been accompanied by thunderstorms and heavy rains, which cleared the air, and were often succeeded by a cool wind. Indeed, the longest spell of really hot weather we have had this year was in May. Since then it has been unusually mild, the thermometer (Cent.) having reached only 31° in the shade, whereas 40° is quite common in Bucharest.

Miscellaneous.

The exports are still very limited, only the timber exports showing a tendency to increase. The timber mostly goes to the adjoining countries: Hungary, Turkey, etc.

Following an exchange of Notes between the British and Roumanian Governments, a provisional commercial agreement has been signed on the basis of the most favoured nation clause. This agreement is terminable at three months' notice on either side.

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THE INDO-EUROPEAN LINE.

Reopening of through Cable Route.

At noon on August 3, nine years after the outbreak of the Great War, the through cable route of the Indo-European Telegraph Company was reopened for telegraph traffic between the United Kingdom and South Russia, Turkey, Persia, the Persian Gulf, Irak, India, and the Far East. For many reasons the reconstruction of the line has been a most difficult and arduous operation, and the chapter of events which has rendered possible this result deserves to rank high in the history of commercial enterprise.

The line is of very old standing, having been opened to the public as long ago as 1868, and its route, crossing as it does many countries of Europe and Asia, renders it particularly susceptible to interruption in the event of international complications. It is worth while to outline briefly the exact route to illustrate the effects of the war. The line runs across the North Sea and Germany, where it goes by way of Emden and Berlin, whence it runs to Thorn and Warsaw, thence on to Birdichevsk and to Odessa in the Ukraine. From Odessa a branch line runs to Constantinople, while the main line goes on by the north shore of the Black Sea by way of Sebastopol and other ports to Tiflis, Tabriz, and Teheran, the terminus of the company's line proper. At Teheran, however the cable connects up with the double system of land lines and cables of the Indo-European Telegraph Department of the India Office to Karachi. The actual length of the company's sections of the lines is 3,000 miles, and to Karachi about 5,600 miles.

The outbreak of hostilities in 1914 resulted in the immediate interruption of the line, which was one of the first of the cables to be put out of action, the last message going through on July 31. Despite unremitting work on the part of those responsible, it has only now been possible to bring the line again into use—nearly five years after the Armistice, a fact which speaks volumes for the work that has had to be accomplished and the difficulties that have had to be overcome. New agreements have, of course, had to be made with all the countries through which the line runs, a task by no means easy, in view of the confused state of the Continent since the war ended. Then there has been the actual reconstruction of the line, a gigantic task, which has involved in large sections actual construction again from the beginning. Much of the company's lines in Poland and South Russia was either destroyed in the course of actual fighting or disappeared together with much equipment; and even where no disturbance had taken place the enforced inactivity of so many years had its effect on the condition of the lines throughout the whole route. It has been necessary to construct an entirely new line for a distance of about 700 miles, and to expend a great deal of time and material on the repair of the old system. This has been done with great success by the company's chief engineer, Captain Cook, and after the short introductory period which is always necessary for a line to find its level after such a long interruption, it is confidently expected that the company will be able to offer to the public the speedy and reliable service which distinguished it before the war.

If the problems with which the company was confronted as regards the reconstruction of the European sections of the line were serious, those with regard to sections further east were scarcely less difficult. In the Caucasus the line had to be constructed anew, and the process involved all the pioneering work that was required when the line was first constructed. The terrain in that region, it may be pointed out, offers difficulties peculiarly its own, and the reconstruction of that section has been no light feat. The whole work, in fact, has been of an extremely arduous character, and the company is justly entitled to the most wholehearted praise on the successful carrying through of the work necessary to bring the line again into operation.

Before leaving the subject, a few remarks on the working of the line may be of interest. Transmission of telegrams is by direct automatic Wheatstone working throughout, as follows:—From London (Manchester and Liverpool) to Odessa for South Russia and Turkey in Europe and Asia, to Tiflis for the Georgian and Caspian oilfields, and to Tabriz and Teheran for Persia, the Persian Gulf, and Irak. With the co-operation of the Indo-European Telegraph Department telegrams for India and beyond are carried direct between London and Karachi by the same automatic working. This is accomplished by the use of nearly twenty relay stations, at which the signals are automatically reinforced and retransmitted. It will readily be understood, therefore, that after a long period of inactivity a line of this length and description, passing through all varieties of country and climate, requires very careful testing and adjustment before it can be opened with confidence for traffic.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

IMPROVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN HARBOURS

Commendatore Luigi Luiggi, an eminent Italian engineer, who was recently invited by the Egyptian Government to inspect the ports of Alexandria and Suez, has now submitted a report in which he recommends various improvements at both (says Reuter's Cairo Correspondent). He divides the work proposed into three categories, according to urgency.

In the first place he advises the early construction of wharves at some distance from each of the two towns for the loading and unloading of oil, petrol, benzine, etc. In the second category he advises the building of new quays in order that adequate accommodation may be provided for the shipping visiting the two ports. In the third category he proposes the construction of depots and reservoirs for petrol, benzine and coal, and various other improvements.

He estimates the cost of the whole scheme at £E1,700,000 for Alexandria and £E850,000 for Suez, the expenditure to be spread over the seven years which the work would require for its execution.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 9).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 11); s.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, August 13).

British India Line.—S.s. Merkara for Madras and Calcutta (London, August 11); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 24).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Yokohama (Birkenhead, August 10).

Ellerman Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, August 15).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Kashgar for Bombay (London, August 10); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25).

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British Consular Reports.

VI.—YUGOSLAVIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Captain E. Murray Harvey, O.B.E., M.C., Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation, Belgrade, on the economic and industrial conditions in Yugoslavia in 1922 :—

Grain Crop.

Persistent reports were current during 1922 that the harvest would be a very bad one, even worse than that of the preceding year, when the exceptional drought seriously affected almost all crops; but these reports appeared to have originated with the peasant farmers themselves, with the object of keeping up the price of grain, and in reality the harvest of 1922 was an average one.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in an endeavour to compile a reliable report, asked for figures to be sent in from all districts, but many of the local authorities failed to respond, and it was found necessary to despatch expert commissions into the corn-growing regions to investigate and report upon the crops. The result of these investigations was upon the whole satisfactory, and the commission estimated that the principal grain-growing districts would furnish 300,000 waggons (3 million metric tons) of cereals (wheat, barley, rye, and maize), including the grain left in the country from the previous year's harvest.

The following figures were given for the grain crop of 1922 (other than maize) :—Wheat, 1,149,818 tons; rye, 112,850 tons; barley, 222,115 tons; oats, 254,749 tons.

The exportable surplus for 1922 of various kinds of grain was given as follows (in tons) :—Wheat, 143,230; barley, 85,590; oats, 76,090; rye, 88,600; maize, 666,260. To this should be added the surplus of wheat and maize from the 1921 harvest, estimated at 128,000 tons of wheat and 381,850 tons of maize. The quality of the wheat is rather better than that of the previous year. In certain districts which never produce sufficient corn to meet local requirements the harvest this year was almost a total failure, and cereals had to be imported from abroad, as, owing to lack of good communications, supplies could not be brought from the grain-growing districts.

Viticulture.

The 1922 grape crop was exceptionally abundant; but owing to the continuous heavy rains which fell at the time of the vintage, much of the wine will be of inferior quality. The difficulty of finding an outlet for the surplus wine is very severely felt, especially in the Vrsac and Bela Crkva region of the Banat, where excellent wines formerly well-known as Hungarian are produced. This district being situated between Belgrade and the frontiers of Roumania and Hungary, to which countries there is no exportation of wine, must send its produce by rail through Yugoslavia from the east to the extreme west in order to reach foreign markets, and as the costs of transport make the wine too dear there is little business done. Hence the agreement by which Czecho-Slovakia permits the importation of 150,000 hectolitres of Yugoslav wine and Yugoslavia an equal quantity of Czecho-Slovakian beer is not thought to be likely to be of much utility in easing the situation.

The total yield of wine for 1922 was estimated at 13,000,000 hectolitres, of which 3,000,000 hectolitres will probably remain available for export after the needs of home consumption are supplied. The wine growers, in order to make it possible to dispose of their production, have asked that the distillation of the inferior qualities should be allowed free of taxation, and that the railway tariff for the inland transportation of wine should be lowered by 50 per cent. as has been done for the carriage of wine destined for exportation.

The Plum Industry.

The continuous rainfall at the time of gathering the plum-crop was productive of bad results for this staple industry. The fruit brought to the drying stations was frequently swollen by the rains, consequently being heavy, and the peasant growers received good prices for their crop. In order not to lose by too great a reduction in weight some of the prune-preparing firms, it is said, did not sufficiently dry the fruit, and as a result there have been complaints from foreign importers as to the quality of Yugoslavian prunes, which if insufficiently dried will not stand a long journey. Great efforts were and are still being made by the Ministry of Agriculture and other interested bodies to standardise the preparation and packing of prunes, by official supervision from the gathering of the fruit until its despatch. It is estimated that about 40,000 tons of prunes were produced in 1922, of which some 20,000 tons are said to have been exported, leaving about 10,000 tons still available for exportation.

Opium Production.

Less opium was grown in 1922 than in the previous year, the crop being estimated at 15,000 to 20,000 kilogrammes; but since prices are now much higher (800 to 900 dinars per oka, as compared with 60 to 70 dinars per oka in 1921), the peasants of Serbian Macedonia are said to be preparing to grow more *papaver somnifera* in 1923. Almost all the opium produced is exported through Salonika, the trade being entirely in the hands of the Greek merchants.

Beet Sugar Industry.

Great efforts are being made to develop this industry by the "Savez Fabrika Secera" (Union of Sugar Factories), Belgrade, which carries on intensive propaganda to popularise the growing of sugar beet by the peasants. Books and pamphlets in many languages descriptive of the best methods of growing beet and the advantages of this crop are distributed gratis to the peasants; the latest types of agricultural implements suited to beet-farming are lent free of charge to the farmers; and further inducements consisting in advances of cash on account of future crops are offered. The partition of large estates under the agrarian reform law has resulted in a reduction of the amount of beet grown. Sixty to seventy thousand tons of sugar are said to be required annually in Yugoslavia, and it is thought that this amount could easily be produced in the country; the yield for 1922 has been estimated at from 30,000 to 35,000 tons, and the balance will be imported mostly from Czecho-Slovakia (cube sugar) and from Java and America (granulated sugar). The greater part of the machinery and plant in use in the eight sugar factories in Yugoslavia is of Czecho-Slovakian origin; many of the skilled workers employed in the sugar industry are also Czecho-Slovakian.

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The Timber Trade.

It is the general opinion that the timber trade has had a disappointing year, but at the same time it must be remembered that timber is the principal article of the Yugoslav export trade. During the first part of the year export was fairly good, and more business could have been done if communications had been better, but later the great fluctuations in the value of the dinar made business very difficult, and it is stated that much foreign trade was lost from this cause. Timber is exported to Italy, Egypt, Switzerland, and France, the latter country being now a regular customer for Yugoslav oak, owing to the low exchange. There is a small trade with Spain, mostly in pine, through the Italian ports. A small quantity of timber has gone to Great Britain, Greece, Belgium, and Holland. The most important customer is now Italy, a fact which is partly explained by the circumstance that the territory which supplied the Italian import trade prior to the War has now passed from Austro-Hungarian into Yugoslav possession (Vojvolina, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia). Roumanian competition is keenly felt in the interior, import merchants having bought largely from Transylvania and the Roumanian Banat, as well as in the trade with the Levant. Figures are not yet available for the whole year, but during the first half of 1922 timber up to the value of 252,000,000 dinars was exported.

Exports.

For the eleven months of 1922 for which figures are available, the value of Yugoslavia's exports amounted to 2,850,000,000 dinars, so that the total for the year can be put at about 3,000,000,000 dinars. Prunes took first place among the articles exported, the second being occupied by timber for constructional purposes. The exportation of cattle and meat products decreased, owing mainly to the hesitation of the Government in the matter of fixing the tariff for the export of swine. In November, the month during which, ordinarily, the swine are mostly exported, there was very little of this trade done. The export of wheat and maize was at that time subject to a very high tariff (since lowered), and therefore practically non-existent. As a consequence there were few foreign drafts available on the bourse, and this fact contributed to the depreciation of the dinar.

Trade with Great Britain.

During 1922, trade with Great Britain, for several reasons, fell short of expectations. It was partly a period of transition during which the fall in prices came at last to an end and a rise began. The dinar depreciated rapidly; retailers were not in a financial position to carry such heavy stocks as usual, with the result that the wholesale merchants imported less, and both traders and the general public refrained from purchasing more than the minimum in anticipation of a further reduction in prices. During the latter part of the year the measures taken to "peg" the dinar were such as to restrict importation, and they did, in fact, for a time, make the purchase of goods abroad almost impossible. In one or two articles such as copper, which is largely used for the manufacture of stills, etc., tin, which is used in the casting of bells to replace those taken from the churches during the War and for bearing-metal, and in tin-plates, a fair amount of business has been transacted. The present position shows more promise. Many of these irksome restrictions upon traffic in foreign exchange which made import trade very difficult have been removed; and conditions have become more normal. Provided a merchant has sufficient capital and is satisfied with a reasonable profit, there is now good business to be done. The demand for woollen textiles, while not remarkable, is steady and on the increase; and certain cotton goods, such as linings and voiles, are also in better demand.

The competition of other countries in this market may be said to be less severe. The Czech crown remains stable and goods of Czecho-Slovakian origin are, comparatively speaking, dear; and countries with greatly depreciated exchanges quote in "sound" valuta. For instance, German manufacturers usually quote in sterling or Swiss francs; their prices for many commodities have lately increased enormously; to mention but one example, quotations for iron tubing; these are made in foreign currencies, and have recently increased 60 per cent. in price. Hungarian manufacturers now also make their quotations in dollars, pounds, or Swiss francs.

With regard to methods of approaching the Yugoslav market, it can only be repeated that, generally speaking, the best method of introducing new kinds of goods is to provide approved agents with local stocks. The Yugoslav merchants are very conservative and possibilities are very remote of booking orders with new customers for "goods to arrive against sterling credits opened in London," or "payment in sterling against documents." It is, however, not easy to find agents who are able and willing to devote much time to the introduction of new goods.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	270-280
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	415-435
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.48-25.52
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/32-1.4 1/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	92.30
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	930
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/32-1.4 1/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	775
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.57 1/16
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	79.05
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	155
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	105½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	500
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	322-328,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,150,000*

* Nominal.

Field-Marshal the Right Hon. the Earl of Ypres, K.P., G.C.B., O.M., and Captain Joseph Pitts, C.B.E., M.C., have joined the board of the Incorporated Anglo-Roumanian Industries, Ltd.

The International Agricultural Institute reports that the production of wheat in Greece this year is estimated at 7.1 million cwt., an increase of 2 million cwt. as compared with 1922. Barley and oats are expected to yield 3.1 and 1.7 million cwt. respectively.

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ROUMANIAN DEBTORS.

In the House of Lords on July 31 Lord Fairfax of Cameron asked His Majesty's Government if their attention had been called to a law the Roumanian Government had passed to enable Roumanian debtors to postpone the payment of their debts to British traders, thus overruling judgments that had been obtained by British firms in the Roumanian courts; whether various foreign Governments had protested against this law, and whether any protest had been made by His Majesty's Government.

The Earl of Clarendon, who replied, said that owing to the continued fall in the exchange value of Roumanian currency and the misplaced confidence in its recovery by the Roumanians, a considerable commercial indebtedness had undoubtedly been incurred to traders in this country, and the debtors had found themselves unable to provide the amount of Roumanian currency required to liquidate the amount of their debts in sterling. A series of schemes for dealing with the question had been elaborated in the course of the preceding twelve months, but, unfortunately, without result. Finally, the Roumanian Chamber of Commerce of Bucharest decided to send over a delegation to France, Switzerland, and Great Britain to represent the Roumanian debtors and try to arrive at a satisfactory solution. At the beginning of this year the delegation contracted agreements with representative bodies of creditors in this country under the auspices of the Manchester and London Chambers of Commerce for the settlement of debts contracted between November 11, 1918, and December 31, 1921. These agreements, which were substantially the same, provided for the immediate payment by the Roumanian debtors of about 20 per cent. of the debts and the liquidation of the remainder of the debts by instalments over a minimum period of twelve years and a maximum period of twenty years. The agreements were subject to ratification and subsequent legislation by the Roumanian Government, and in June a law was passed purporting to ratify the agreements. When this law came to be examined, it was found that it differed in certain respects from the arrangements previously made in this country. Accordingly, opportunity was taken by the British creditors of the recent visit here of the Roumanian Finance Minister to discuss the whole question with him, and before he left England the Finance Minister gave certain assurances to the effect that the terms of the agreements entered into should prevail. H.M. Minister at Bucharest had received instructions to obtain confirmation from the Roumanian Government of these assurances. It was confidently hoped, therefore, that before many months had elapsed a satisfactory solution of the whole of this question would be arrived at. He understood that the Italian and French Ministers at Bucharest had lodged diplomatic protests against the law, mainly on the ground that French and Italian debtors were not parties to the agreements.

Lord Newton said there had seldom been a greater condemnation of the good faith and honesty of a so-called friendly and Allied Government than was disclosed in this case. It was the Roumanian Government, responsible for this dishonest legislation, which was at this moment holding up the whole financial settlement of Central Europe by reason of its obstruction in the matter of Hungarian reparations. He hoped his noble friend would hold the Government to the statement they had made.

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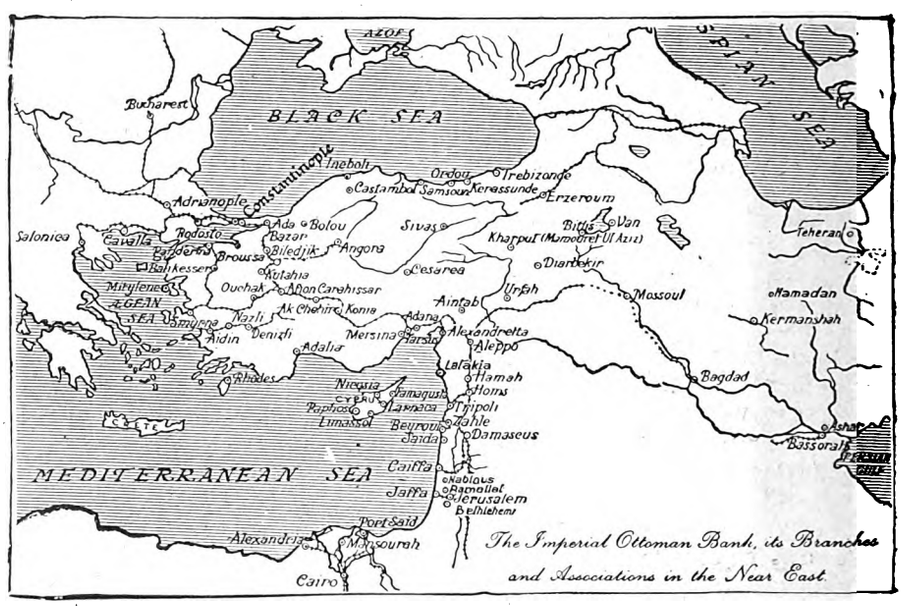

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OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

Oilfields of Egypt.

At the general meeting of the Oilfields of Egypt the chairman, Mr. Francis Allen, dealt at length with the position with regard to the company's areas in Egypt. As regards the Ras Dhib area, the company sank wells some few hundred feet without finding oil in paying quantities. The company's technical advisers suggested going down to further depths, at which it was anticipated that the Nubian sandstone would be reached. Drilling was, therefore, continued past the 2,000 ft. limit, and on the way down small shows of gas and oil were encountered, sufficient to encourage the hope that there was something worth going for.

"But none of those shows," Mr. Allen added, "materialised. At one time the staff were particularly confident, because they were passing through a formation which was said to conform to the Hurghada formation. They were very hopeful at that time, and we, too, were very much encouraged. However, their hope did not materialise; they sank deeper and reached the point at which they expected to cut the Nubian sandstone without obtaining oil. We might have gone deeper still, but there were various technical difficulties in the way of deep drilling, and our technical advisers, therefore, after careful consideration, advised us that they did not think it would be wise to proceed."

The Ras Bahar Field.

Turning to the Ras Bahar field, Mr. Allen pointed out that they had a well down to a considerable depth. It was mentioned in the report that they were seeing whether they could raise sufficient money to put the well down to the necessary depth—probably 4,000 ft. A telegram just received from the company's manager in Egypt stated that he had received a proposal from an Egyptian syndicate enabling the company to complete Ras Bahar borehole No. 3 on terms which he thought the company could accept. Mr. Allen added that they had not yet received a letter from their manager referred to in the message; but as he was in full possession of their views with regard to Ras Bahar, they were fairly confident that the arrangement was on terms which were fairly satisfactory to themselves.

Mr. Allen proceeded to quote the opinion of Mr. Cunningham Craig in regard to Ras Bahar:—

I am of opinion that a new deep test should be made here, and I have indicated to Mr. Macdonald a location within a hundred yards of the eastern boundary of the concession. . . . The well should be carried to 4,000 ft. This will be an expensive test, and it is admittedly speculative, but the reward of success will be far greater than at Ras Dhib.

That the Nubian sandstone is petroliferous in this neighbourhood is obvious . . . and a success in that area (Ras Bahar) will undoubtedly mean large production and the proving of a field that should be large enough to contain at least 60 wells.

"We have always wanted to carry out this test," said Mr. Allen, "and see if Mr. Craig's predictions are correct. If they were proved to be so it would alter the whole position of this company. In suggesting that we are going on with this borehole, I should like to say that there is no question but that drilling for oil in Egypt generally has not proved very successful, as the country is very much broken up by upheavals, which took place at various remote periods. Therefore. I suggest to the shareholders that, although we shall do our best to put this borehole down—and we are distinctly hopeful about it—they should not count too much upon it, because we are not justified in feeling too confident. I dare say I may be regarded as a pessimist in saying that, but it is much wiser to tell shareholders plainly that there are considerable risks in connection with these things than to hold out hopes which may not be fulfilled."

CATTLE DISEASE IN IRAK.

The Veterinary Bulletin of Irak for April gives the following particulars:—

Rinderpest, the most formidable cattle plague of the East, again exacted a heavy toll among the cattle in the Baghdad, Amara, Dulaim, and Diala Liwas, outbreaks occurring as far north as Hit and south to the Muqata of Shaikh Shawai in Amara. One hundred and fifty-eight head of cattle died before veterinary aid could be rendered. Altogether 1,500 animals were inoculated with anti-rinderpest serum. This serum is remarkably efficacious, enabling the protection of all cattle in the areas exposed to infection. Early notification of the existence of disease is essential, but it is to be regretted that failure to report cases still occurs, with the inevitable loss of stock and spread of the disease.

A serious epidemic of anthrax broke out among sheep and cattle in the Hilla Liwa. The principal places affected were Na'amiyah, Abu Jamus, in the Nahiya of Kifl. Three hundred deaths occurred from the disease. During the past three years this disease has been comparatively rare. The outbreak is to be regretted, as, apart from the loss of stock and the danger to human life through handling of the skin and wool, a large grazing area will be infectious for all animals for many months to come.

AGRICULTURE IN MOROCCO.

The following extracts are taken from a report of Mr. C. E. Heathcote Smith, British Consul at Casablanca, on the agricultural outlook in the French zone of Morocco:—

After the pessimism induced in the early part of the year by the prolonged drought, an excessive optimism appears to have been indulged in consequent upon the late but heavy rains in March and April.

The Protectorate official report on present prospects states that the harvest of soft wheat is almost completed. The first results show the harmful effects of the sirocco in May. In the Abda (Saffi) soft wheat will only yield a quarter of the quantity estimated in April by the farmers; though in this case it is a question of grain grown without spring ploughing. In the Doukkala (Mazagan), Chacuia (Casablanca), and Rabat regions, the damage, though considerable, is less. Around Meknez, too, results are below those estimated in April; but at Fez and Tadla they are slightly in excess of expectations. Hard wheat suffered less from the action of the warm winds. Taken as a whole, the wheat crop is average in yield, but in view of the considerable extension of land brought under wheat, there will be important quantities available for exportation, which will justify the estimates presented at the time of the preparation of the Presidential Decree fixing the amounts to be admitted into France in the 1923-24 season. These amounts included:—Wheat, 800,000 quintals; barley, 500,000 quintals; oats, 120,000 quintals; beans, 200,000 quintals; maize, 200,000 quintals; Canary seed, 30,000 quintals.

The barley harvest is complete. Although it is of only fair to average, it will exceed the April estimates by about 30,000 tons. Oats have given excellent results. The average yield for all Morocco has proved to be about 1.2 tons per hectare, as against the April estimate of 1.17.

The year 1922-23 will show on the whole average results, but the considerable increase in wheat and barley sowings will enable the estimated quantities to be exported.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Dull and Weak.

The Commercial Company of Egypt in their report for the week ended July 27 state :—

Since our last report, the futures market has been very dull and the undertone distinctly weak. The principal reasons for this week's weakness is the acute trade depression existing more or less all over the world, and the continued good news received on the progress of the American and Egyptian crops. We do not look for the time being for any appreciable change in the present level of prices; however, we must not ignore the fact that we are now in the critical period of the growing crops, when the markets are very easily influenced should unfavourable conditions develop. The signing of the Lausanne Treaty will undoubtedly create a brighter atmosphere in commercial circles in the Near East, and it is hoped that trade and industrial activity will revive shortly in those countries which have suffered so many calamities during recent years. This week's receipts amounted to 475 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,630,352 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 31,554 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,095,532 krs., against 1,126,611 krs. a week ago, and 1,668,648 krs. a year ago.

Spot: Owing to the Kourban Bairam holidays we have had a short week at Minet el Bassal. The market has been very quiet, and sales amount for the three business days to about 1,650 bales, of which we estimate 1,000 bales Sakellarides and 650 bales Uppers, with a few bales of outside growths. Spinners continue to show little interest in our market, and the demand is poor.

Sakellarides: All grades have been dealt in. Prices of spot against contracts are generally a little dearer, good fair markedly so, the spot not having followed the decline in contracts.

Uppers: All styles have changed hands. Prices of spot against contracts are generally rather dearer than last week, except in the high grades, which are without change.

Brown and white are neglected, and only a few bales have changed hands. Prices of spot against contracts are dearer than last week, especially for white.

Crop 1923: News from the interior on the progress of the plants continues satisfactory; water is ample everywhere and the temperature favourable.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Falling Off in Demand for Egyptian.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 1 :—

The demand for Egyptian cotton has shown a further falling off during the past week. The continued weakness of the American markets could hardly be expected to stimulate buying, and until to-day we have witnessed an all-round easier tendency in spot prices. To-day, however, a more buoyant feeling developed, as a result of the unlooked-for strength of the Alexandria market, the latter being due entirely to the fact that the Egyptian Government had announced its decision to support the market—in what way or to what extent is not yet clear. Whatever opinions may be held as to the advisability of Government intervention, it has certainly "stopped the rot" for the time being. Only a small amount of buying has so far been attracted by the sudden rise, most spinners remaining sceptical as to its permanence. It should be borne in mind, however, that the American markets have been forced back a considerable way in the last ten days or so, and a reaction at any time now would surprise nobody. A combination of the two circumstances might cause a sharp upward movement in Egyptian cotton, that would make to-day's prices, 14.70 for November, look very attractive.

Last week's stock-taking in Liverpool has revealed a further decrease of approximately 6,000 bales, making the total here to-day (say) 82,000 bales, as against (say) 92,000 bales on the same date last year, a decrease of approximately 10,000 bales. There is doing, of course, and has been doing for some time now, a much bigger spot business this year than there was during the corresponding months of 1922, and yet the price of Egyptian cotton to-day is nearly 4½d. per lb. cheaper than it was in July last year. The demand during the week has been chiefly for Sakellaridis cotton, at prices ranging from 100 to 175 points on November contracts. A little more inquiry has been noticeable for the better cotton up to about "250 on." Uppers have been rather at a discount again, and what inquiry there was has been satisfied with medium grades. The usual inquiries for low cotton continue, and White Sudan, about "150 on," has also been in request. Brown cotton and Tokar Sakellaridis have been neglected..

C.i.f. business has been transacted spasmodically here and there, but, for the most part, requirements are met more cheaply out of stock in Liverpool. New crop news continues to be favourable. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 27th ult. were returned as 6,430 bales. Total sales 3,800 (includes 300 Sudan). Quotations of Sakel are reduced 15 points, those of Upper and Brown 5 points, on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day, 15.35d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Rise in Raw Cotton Prices.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 4 states :—

The market has been somewhat disorganised during the past week, owing to the unexpected nature of the American Agricultural Bureau's report on the growing crop. This was issued on Wednesday evening, and gave the condition as 67.2 per cent. as compared with 69.9 per cent. a month ago, thus showing a reduction where an increase had been confidently expected. The report was regarded with a certain amount of incredulity in Manchester, but the effect was to raise substantially raw cotton prices, which for some days previously had been falling rather rapidly; at the same time it upset any negotiations which were in progress here.

Yarn.—The fluctuations referred to above in the price of raw cotton have had a disturbing effect, and at the moment it is difficult to fix a basis of yarn values, quotations being very irregular. There is no improvement to record in the general state of affairs, the Egyptian section being now decidedly less active than a little while ago.

Cloth.—There was perhaps a little more inquiry in this section in the early days of the week, but the publication of the Bureau report brought negotiations almost to a standstill. Markets abroad remain in a lethargic state, and there has not yet been time for the hoped-for demand from the Levant to materialise.

Raw Cotton.—The Bureau report has been referred to above, and was followed by heavy buying in New York and Liverpool, which, however, did not carry the price as high as it was before the recent break. The crop is now estimated at 11,500,000 bales. The carry-over at July 31 is said to be about 2,500,000 bales, as compared with 4,920,000 bales a year ago and 9,914,000 bales in 1921. Closing prices are as follows :—American Fully Middling, 13.86; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 15.85.

For the quarter ended March, Palestine's imports amounted in value to £E1,246,661.

The production of hard coal in Czecho-Slovakia in 1922 amounted to 99,062,610 quintals, while the production of lignite was 189,420,202 quintals.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 10 amounted to £E7,104, making the total from April 1 £E64,059, as compared with £E78,589 for the corresponding period of the previous year.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 640—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Turkish Democracy at Work.

This week sees the new Turkish democracy settling down to serious work. Hitherto the stress of foreign affairs has stultified, or at least thrown a cloak of artificiality over, home politics in Turkey. Now, however, the Lausanne Conference is at an end; the new Turkish Assembly has been convened, and the Constitution, drafted in the first instance with one eye on Moscow, and not altogether without thought for its effect on Europe, can be reconsidered in the light of a brief experience and with a single mind for Turkey's own interests. It is a satisfactory sign that Ismet Pasha's work at Lausanne appears to have won for him the gratitude of his fellow-countrymen. Mustapha Kemal Pasha's position may be for the moment unchallengeable; but the best thing that could happen for Turkey would be that he should be able to rely upon the support, whether as Ministers or not, of a number of others whose authority also carries weight in the country. The problem with which the Turkish nation is confronted at this stage is far too formidable for the responsibility of solving it to rest on the shoulders of one man alone, however able he may be. The form of administration is of secondary importance; "whate'er is best administered is best." More than half of Turkey's administrative battle would be won if she could secure honesty in her Government; efficiency could follow by gradual steps. With half a dozen men grouped round him whose resolve to establish a tradition of honesty in the administration was proof against the Turkish failing of *laissez faire*, Mustapha Kemal Pasha would have an easier task ahead of him than if he has no one to turn to except a number of Commissaries who may owe their office to log-rolling in the Assembly.

The Macedonian Question.

The two outstanding factors in connection with the Macedonian question are that the agitation for autonomy is not going to be suppressed easily and that only a Government of madmen in Sofia would deliberately encourage the Macedonians at this particular juncture. From what was known of the Macedonian organisation it was to be inferred that the fall of the Stambolisky régime would be followed by a revival of Macedonian activity. In accordance with his policy of cultivating friendly relations with his neighbours, the late Prime Minister had damped down the embarrassing agitation to such good effect that the Macedonians realised that before they could get to business again on their programme they would have to eliminate M. Stambolisky from the Bulgarian Government. They probably have no right to take any credit for the *coup d'état* of June 9, but they have not been slow to profit by it, and the new Government is naturally unwilling to antagonise the powerful Macedonian organisation before it is firmly established in power. Accordingly there have been Macedonian demonstrations in Sofia, for which the Bulgarian Government will inevitably be held responsible by its neighbours. A moment's consideration, however, will show that a Government in the position of M. Zankoff's Cabinet has nothing to gain by a recrudescence of Macedonian activity. No body of men capable of the work that resulted in the downfall of M. Stambolisky would willingly ride for their own destruction a few weeks after taking office. The difficulties of the situation are conspicuous enough, and it is in the interests of the Balkan Peninsula as a whole that Bulgaria should be given time to judge the new men on their political merits without having their position complicated by foreign representations.

Solution by Negotiation.

From the Macedonians' own point of view it would be well if they could be brought to see that they are likely to gain more by holding their hand for a period than by trying to prejudice the Bulgarian Government. Their cause has gained little from the methods hitherto adopted. They may think that it is only owing to those methods that it is now recognised as a cause at all. On the other hand, Bulgaria has made her claim to an outlet on the Ægean Sea also a "cause," without any violent measures, and although no success has yet attended the efforts to reach the end in view, no Bulgarian despairs of an ultimate settlement. The Macedonian problem is entirely separate from that of the Ægean outlet; but it is also part of the Near Eastern question, as it now

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stands, and has a much better chance of obtaining a satisfactory solution by peaceful negotiations than by indiscriminate excesses. These might, indeed, in the long run attain their end, on the analogy of other revolutionary movements, but hardly before the greater part of the Macedonians have been wiped out. One of the first tasks of the Sofia Government, therefore, would seem to be to make an arrangement with the Macedonians in Bulgaria that all agitation should be discountenanced for a certain time to give the Government an opportunity of bringing the question before the League of Nations. It would promote the cause of peace in the Balkans, if at the same time the Yugoslav Government could try to eliminate all causes for agitation among the Macedonians in Serbia whose alleged disabilities help to keep alive the agitation among Macedonians in Bulgaria.

The Arabs of Palestine.

It is good news that six of the ten Arabs nominated to the Advisory Council have agreed to accept office. Shortly before Sir Herbert Samuel's departure from Palestine on leave it was reported that all the nominees had refused to serve: but it was more correct to say that they had made their acceptance of office conditional upon their being satisfied that membership of the Council would not commit them to approval of the Constitution. Negotiations on this subject have been in progress for several weeks with the Acting High Commissioner, Sir Gilbert Clayton, with the satisfactory result now reported. It goes without saying that attempts will be made by Arab extremists to force the Councillors to resign; but it is hoped that one and all will remain proof against threats or cajolery. There can be no question that Arab interests can be served better by Arab representation on the Council than by a foolish policy of abstention. If the Palestinian Arabs want an illustration of this fact, they need not go farther afield than Cyprus, where the Greeks have realised their mistake in boycotting the Legislative Council. The main lines of British policy in Palestine are very clear; there will be no yielding to threats, but there will be a gradual devolution of authority. If the Arabs show administrative ability, the process of devolution will be much more rapid than if they sulk in ineffective opposition. The men who have already accepted office have given evidence of their patriotism and commonsense.

Dangers of a Bad Example.

Arab political unrest may not be entirely responsible for all the raiding and brigandage which is now rife in Syria and Palestine; but there can be little doubt that the latter are encouraged by the tribesmen's knowledge that their kinsfolk in these countries are at strife with the powers that be. Turkish intrigue also plays a part, as it has been an axiom at Angora that dissatisfaction with France's attitude at Lausanne can best be shown by making things as uncomfortable as possible for the French in Syria. With the signature of peace this state of affairs should cease, although it may be some time before the effect of better counsels at Angora is felt on the Syrian frontier. The point for the Arabs to bear in mind is that their own kinsfolk are in the end the chief losers from brigandage and general unrest. The opening up of communications in the Middle East will give great impetus to trade, if a reasonable measure of security can be guaranteed on the new routes, and Arab merchants and traders will benefit. Both in Syria and Palestine, therefore, the only patriotic course to adopt is to seek redress for grievances by strictly constitutional means. The strongest possible case against a Mandatory Power will have been made when it can be shown that loyal co-operation and constitutional methods have availed nothing for the removal of disabilities.

Abyssinia.

Any lingering doubts as to the necessity of revising our ideas of the extent to which Western political theories have become acclimatised in the East must be removed by the announcement that Ras Tafari, Regent of Abyssinia, has applied for the admission of his country to the League of Nations. The application is a very shrewd move, and the Regent is to be congratulated on his political wisdom. Abyssinia has lately been rather prominent in the public eye in Great Britain owing to reports of a recrudescence of the slave traffic. Apart from the fact that slavery exists in the country, there is a conflict of evidence as to the extent to which a fresh lease of life has been given to the traffic in slaves since the death of the Emperor Menelek. Conditions in the country—in particular, the weakening of the central authority, have been favourable to the evil; but the Regent claims to have taken steps to restrict slave-raiding, even if he has not been able to stop the practice altogether. If Abyssinia is granted admission to the League of Nations, the Government will have an interest in having the facts regarding the slave traffic properly investigated. At the same time, the Regent may hope to protect himself against any State that shows signs of aiding its nationals too zealously in the exploitation of Abyssinia's resources. The country is in need of development; but, in company with other Eastern peoples, the Abyssinians will probably prefer to choose their own pace and to arrange for the maximum benefit to themselves arising from the development.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The English Channel.

During the last few days the Channel has been both won and almost lost. Two swimmers have successfully crossed it; but the British Government has not been able so to cross it. With the publication this morning of their Note to the French Government one felt indeed that the darkest hour was on us, that the old gulf so gallantly bridged during the War was once more yawning between England and France. For there is no mistaking the strength, weight, and seriousness of the British Note. After disputing the legality of the Ruhr occupation and reminding the French of their unpaid debt to us, the Note goes boldly on to talk of the possibility of "separate action."

It is claimed that the Government, whatever they do, will have a united nation behind them. Personally I doubt it. There are still thousands of British people who do not enjoy Mr. Baldwin's apparent faith in the goodness of German intentions, and who, therefore, support the French view. But, apart from this fact, is "separate action" at all possible? Is there anything which our Government can really *do?* In all our newspapers which support the Government in its resolve to take "proper steps" I have seen no hint as to what such steps are actually to be. It would seem that England now cannot direct: it can but drift.

The European Situation.

There is little point in seeking to minimise the gravity of the present situation in Europe, still less in denying our own impotence as a nation in the face of it. For that is what the Ruhr business has

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brought us to—a state of hopeless impotence. On the Continent our counsels (that is, the counsels of Mr. Baldwin's Government) do not count in any considerable quarter; our advice falls on deaf ears; our intentions are proclaimed without causing any apparent alarm.

The outlook is indeed black. What will happen if, as is confidently, or rather fearfully, hoped here—and business firms with branches in both England and France have already changed their moneys as a precaution—the French franc goes over the hundred, it is impossible to foretell. Equally obscure is the future, from our own point of view, if resistance in the Ruhr ceases, and the political disintegration of Germany begins. England, as a statement of sad fact, is nowhere in the matter; and it may be years before she regains the prestige on the Continent which was hers before Mr. Lloyd George undermined it.

That we shall, as a consequence of fundamental disagreement with France, soon or ever relapse into a state of isolation, hoping by that means to escape Continental problems, I can scarcely believe. If we thus ran away, we should certainly find the black shadows of Europe chasing us more thickly and faster. We might, of course, seek to obtain new alliances, but that would be a very expensive and degrading course. In short, the conviction is forced home again on one that our European policy must approach more nearly that of France, and that our business interests must, therefore, yield to our political interests. Those who say (and in theory they are right) that that is putting the cart before the horse have yet to prove that the chariot they fain would drive would, in fact, progress at all.

Agricultural Depression.

To one who has recently passed through some of the corn-bearing districts of England, and has observed the promise of a rich harvest, the melancholy wail which marked the Press of the last week was surprising. Less land than ever, it seems, is under cultivation, and though the harvest this year may indeed be good, there is no certainty that corn-growing will prove profitable to the farmer. Fruit, moreover, has been a ghastly failure. The position of British agriculture is to be discussed at the forthcoming Imperial Conference, and some attempt is to be made to save the situation. The only alternative—and a disastrous one from a national point of view—is to let the land go to grass.

This must be the true situation. But to look at the wheat in Hertfordshire, for example, which county, incidentally, used to grow, and still does grow, for all I know, more corn per acre than any county in England, or the barley in Norfolk, one can hardly believe the dismal tale.

Summer Schools.

Both Liberals and Conservatives have been wringing the sponges of their minds during the last week, but whereas the Liberals placed their summer-school in the diffuse atmosphere of Cambridge, the Conservatives found closer contact with reality at Wilton, near Salisbury. These summer-schools are commonly supposed to do good, as showing what enormous intelligences repose in either party; but finding ideas of any merit is real research work. At Cambridge, Mr. J. M. Keynes for the Liberals naturally went off the deep-end—if he can be dogmatic in *The Times*, in his own hearth he soars to intolerable heights of pontificism. He talked about control of the currency, and one hopes that his audience of little Liberals could follow him with more intelligence than the public could read the report of his paper. Mr. Asquith discoursed on the Ruhr, and created considerable alarm by omitting to discuss the question of the legality of the Ruhr, contenting himself with saying that it was "wholly impolitic." There is certainly life in Mr. Asquith; but this is rather in spite of his political tenets than because of them. For the Liberals are the dullest, unreallest people now talking any sense. Lord Hugh Cecil, at the Conservative School, got them off neatly when, after dividing them into bad Liberals and good Liberals, he said that good Liberals were really Conservatives who had not quite found out that they were Conservatives. It is, of course, a discovery that they will never make, because they are too old to go on so long and profitless a voyage of exploration.

The Slave State.

But while, as I have suggested, these political Conferences cut little ice and are but genially reported in the Press, the Congress that did wake the papers from their heat-induced sleep was the National Congress of Roman Catholics at Birmingham. I do not mean that any religious fervour was aroused in the breasts of our atheistic journals, though the decision of Cardinal Bourne not to form a Catholic Party on the lines of the Continental models was favourably remarked; but what did really appear to sting them was the obvious statement by Mr. G. K. Chesterton that the world is on the threshold of another slave State. The theory that modern industrial States are developing into servile States was stated by Mr. Hilaire Belloc before the War, and though it has been contradicted it has never been overthrown. The point is that the modern business contract between master and man tends to guarantee security at the expense of freedom, and a slavery, decent if you like, comfortable, and perhaps unrecognisable by the slave, is the result. But sheets so far apart from each other as the *Morning Post* and *Evening Standard* will have none of this, seeking consolation in such high irrelevances as that slaves do not watch football matches or go on holidays. They are grossly material, our newspapers; the psychical does not appeal to them, except as matter for "stunting."

Entrants to Journalism.

It is a truism, though none outside the profession will believe it, that there is little money in journalism. The average journalist is a very hard-working dog; and he views the helter-skelter struggle of

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outside people to get themselves into print both with pity and dismay. A quite extraordinary number of people, however, are to-day practising journalism: everyone has his favourite journalistic clergyman, doctor, and judge. But one can scarcely say that the Church and medicine have unloaded their choicest gems on our papers.

And now, it seems, the Bar is to descend into print. The last legal year is said to have been financially the worst on record, and the poor barristers are trying to persuade editors that their pens are as worthy instruments as their glib tongues used in better times to be. Others, not so transparently dishonest as this, are giving up their jobs altogether and are going into commerce, which seems to be the only really paying thing nowadays.

The "Proms."

The annual Promenade Concerts of Sir Henry Wood and Mr. Robert Newman began at the Queen's Hall on Saturday, and will continue until October, as usual. These "Proms." have very much changed their character since they were started nearly thirty years ago, and have now attained such a decent level that they should not be missed by any intelligent visitor to London. It is true that the insidious beastly head of commerce is rather extensively displayed in the programmes, but the shop ballads are always performed in the second half of the programme, so that the self-respecting listener can rely on two hours' music (less or more) before he is compelled before the oncoming shadow of Messrs. Chappell to withdraw. September is probably the best month in which to go to the "Proms."—where, incidentally, one should always get a seat, for no one for long can stand and attentively listen—because by that time the band is well together, and is not yet jaded.

Alter Ego.

The British High Commissioner in Irak has left Baghdad for a tour of all the southern provinces.

The Postmaster-General announces that on the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne the British Post Office at Constantinople will be closed, and postal packets (including parcels) addressed to that city will thereafter reach the addressees through the Turkish Post Office.

An Executive Committee of the Parbandhak (Sikh Shrines) Committee has appointed a working committee to draw up a scheme for agitating among the Sikhs for the reinstatement of the Maharaja of Nabha. Already appeals have been issued in the Amritsar district calling for patriotic Akalis to register their names as willing to suffer for the cause.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The New Turkey.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of August 2 a "correspondent lately in Constantinople" writes on "Turkey To-day." He refers to the sympathy and encouragement given during the last eighteen months to the struggle by Turkey for national sovereignty, and says that for his part he cannot indulge in it. His reasons are simple: "In every department of government or statecraft in which the Turk has declared that his sovereign rights must prevail he has shown in the recent past, and is still making it more evident, that his methods are corrupt, untrustworthy, and inefficient in the highest degree." Her army, moreover, has completely disintegrated, and "as a military Power the new Turkey differs little from the old."

As to Turkey's working of her own laws, it is sufficient to mention the farce that the attempt to introduce prohibition has brought about. Further, the new "Parliamentary system" in Turkey is the same as that obtaining in all Balkan countries—it is invariably at the mercy of anyone sufficiently strong to bend it to his own purposes. In short, this writer believes that, in spite of evidence to the contrary, under the polished Oriental who seeks admission to the League of Nations lies the real, savage Turk:—

> The traditions of 1453 die hard, and everywhere it is the Orient that breaks through the frock-coats and the stately gentility of the Ottoman. The country is consumed not with a pan-Islamic frenzy, but with a nationalistic spirit that combines the defects of Chauvinism with the dangers of bigotry. What little religious influence there originally was in Kemal's schism is mostly eliminated. The movement is now primarily political, and has recently begun to take upon itself a strong financial flavour. A large majority of the deputies of Angora have direct interests in the concessions about which so much polemic has raged. The religious fervour of the earlier days of the movement is over.
>
> Those who have so eloquently pleaded the cause of the new Turkey must pause and look at what the real new Turkey is. They have brought into the world the most dreadful Frankenstein that the world has seen since the Treaty of Versailles. But it has not yet begun to move. Its creators have, indeed, assumed a deep responsibility. Already the Balkans are astir. Alliance and rearrangement are spoken of in every Balkan chancellery, and all is unrest once more. The seeds of "sovereign rights" and "nationalism" will be reaped as a grim harvest of war and massacre in all too short a time.

Articles to Note.

"A Peasant Statesman: Alexander Stambolisky." By A. L. Kennedy, M.C.; "The Future of the Central European States," by Dudley Heathcote; and "The Bulgarian Revolution," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (August).

Three cases of plague have occurred in Syria.

It is reported, states a Teheran Reuter message, that a bomb has been found in the Shah's country palace.

It is stated from Athens that two ships left the Piræus on August 12 for Constantinople to embark eight thousand refugees.

It is stated from Teheran that the Persian Crown Prince has been appointed Governor-General of Azerbaijan, and left on Sunday with Nasr-ed-Dowleh as his assistant.

Reports received from Tashkent (Turkestan) state that over six hundred buildings and some two thousand small farm holdings in the surrounding districts have been destroyed by violent gales.

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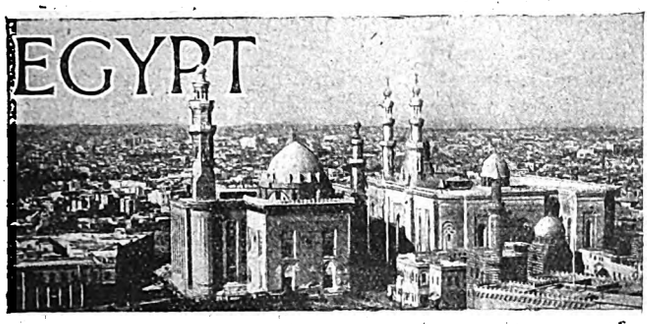
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 2.

Mr. Dowson's Retirement.

Mr. Dowson is shortly retiring from the position of Financial Adviser, and it is reported that his successor is to be Mr. R. S. Patterson, until May of last year Adviser to the Ministry of Education. Mr. Patterson is very popular with Egyptians with whom he has come into contact, and reports of his being a likely candidate for the Financial Adviserships have given much satisfaction.

The Dispute with the Hejaz.

The Arabic Press, which usually goes wild with delight over a fresh opportunity for journalistic vitriol, but drops the subject as soon as some new toy to play with presents itself, has stuck to the matter of the dispute over the Mahmal's medical escort with rare persistence. The newspapers turn the matter over and over, bury it, and dig it up again, like a dog reluctant to relinquish a specially toothsome bone, in which there may still lurk some undiscovered marrow. Most of the journals are still pouring out their wrath upon Hussein ibn Aly, as they invariably term the King of the Hejaz, but three or four have adopted a different tone. Clearly they have begun to smell a rat. The very virtuous original statement on the subject issued by the Egyptian Government did not, it has since transpired, tell quite the whole truth, and doubts are expressed regarding how much may still remain untold. King Hussein's well-known rapacity is held to be itself adequate reason for thinking that he would not jeopardise, for the sake of a simple pique the subsidies annually paid by the Egyptian Government. Meanwhile the Hejaz representative here has issued a statement published by King Hussein in his official newspaper, *Al Kibla*, purporting to be an accurate account of the negotiations with the Emir el Haj which led up to the return of the Mahmal. The Emir el Haj has retorted by giving the King the lie direct. But even this has not convinced the sceptics, for the Emir el Haj, excellent soldier that he doubtless is, is not renowned for very great tact. A further statement on the subject is promised by the Egyptian Government during the next few days, and it will make interesting reading. Certainly it will have to be a little more convincing than the last if it is to dispel the impression that there is in all this business of the Mahmal's medical escort a little more than has yet met the eye.

Signs of the Times.

With all the goodwill in the world towards the new régime in Egypt, and however optimistic one may be regarding this country's eventual ability to stand alone, it is impossible to feel much satisfaction with the manner in which Egyptians generally have been utilising their greater freedom of expression since the abolition of martial law. The tone of the Press is steadily degenerating into more and more embittered enmity towards political opponents. The Wafd has set the fashion by issuing a continuous stream of manifestoes which, after every allowance has been made for the chagrin felt by the Zaghloulist executive over its steady decline in importance, can only be described as masterpieces of unwisdom. Leaving aside the arguments used, the style of these precious documents is inflammatory and exaggerated in the extreme. Unfortunately for the Zaghloulist Party, the Wafd is now controlled almost entirely by Copts. Of the executive committee of thirteen, six are Copts, a gross disproportion compared with the thirteen to one preponderance of Moslems in the country. Already the Copts are feeling the first symptoms of the religious favouritism which will gradually squeeze Christians out of all but the lowest Government posts and the conventionally stipulated one portfolio in the Cabinet. Feeling the first cold blast of this dread wind of unpopularity, the Copts in the Wafd executive are driven to out-Herod Herod. To conserve their position in the limelight into which, under the spell of the magic name of Zaghloul, they have insinuated themselves, they are driven from one excess to another. Hence the Wafd's swift descent to unreasoning fanaticism.

Taking their cue from the Wafd, the newspapers howl in unison. Everybody who disagrees with the Zaghloulist policy is a traitor to the country, a "friend of the British," a person whose name can only be mentioned with the pendant "May God forgive him." The Zaghloulists make no secret of their intention, when they have scored the sweeping success at the polls which they anticipate, of making it impossible for any organised political opposition to exist.

Attacks on the Capitulations.

Inter-Egyptian recriminations are disappointing to friends of this country, who had hoped that it would be possible for Egyptians to sink their differences in an endeavour to pull together for the common good, but they are less disquieting than the tendency, now becoming increasingly manifest, to attempt to stir up prejudice against the foreigners resident here. Although the Zaghloulists have lost no opportunity of proclaiming abroad that they favour the continuance of the Capitula-

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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tions in preference to British protection of foreign interests, attacks on the Capitulations are becoming increasingly frequent in the Press. The Coptic newspaper *Al Misr*, exhibiting the same tendency as its compatriot members of the Wafd executive, has just published a ferocious article on the subject. "The foreigners strut about the country armed from head to foot . . . the foreigner can plunge his knife into the native's chest . . . and then take refuge behind his foreign nationality, and nobody dare approach him. The police cannot effect his arrest except on the order of his Consul. And who is his Consul? His brother and compatriot; his partner in the profits. . . ." Extracting a phrase from an article is often unfair and gives a false impression, but the extract which I have made is typical of the whole of this particular outburst.

Nothing could be farther from the mind of any well-wisher of this country than to start raising a panic at this early stage of Egypt's independent life. Egypt is suffering from growing pains, like many another State that has newly won her independence. At the same time it would be folly to ignore tendencies which, if not suppressed in time, may eventually lead to much trouble.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, August 2.

The Sinaia Conference.

A conference of foxes is the term applied by an Italian newspaper to the Little Entente Conference at Sinaia, but this designation is unfair. The *communiqué* issued by the Conference is so clear that it would be difficult to find an *arrière-pensée*. All that is needed is to examine the special desires of each member of the Little Entente in order to discover where the community of interest is complete, and where it is still being sought. And the proceedings of the Conference bear this out to the full.

Full and complete agreement was reached in regard to the Hungarian question. The unfortunate policy of *revanche* pursued by Hungary is the strongest bond between the members of the Little Entente, because in this matter all are equally interested and all equally endangered. Strange as it may seem, it is Hungary who deserves the most credit for the fact that the entente between Yugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia expanded into the Little Entente by the entry of Roumania. And it is again Hungary to whom it is due that the relations between Czecho-Slovakia and Roumania, which were very lukewarm but a short time ago, have become far more cordial. How much closer these relations will yet become is as yet uncertain. Hungary's attitude will certainly continue to play a considerable part in the matter.

Meantime it is satisfactory to note that the complete agreement reached by the Conference in regard to the Hungarian question is of a nature tending to bring about an improvement in the relations between Hungary and the States of the Little Entente. The matter in question is the foreign loan which Hungary is anxious to raise, and which will scarcely succeed so long as the lien of the Little Entente upon Hungarian State property exists. The representatives of the Little Entente have agreed that this lien may be waived, in part wholly, in part under the condition that the loan will not be used for military or propagandist purposes directed against the Little Entente.

The Russian and Bulgarian questions were also discussed at length. No decisions were reached, however, and it is solely because of this, and not because of the Javorina question, that Poland finds herself as yet unable to join the Little Entente. Poland and Roumania are neighbours of a revolutionary State, and are therefore compelled to be all the time on their guard. Hence it is natural that an alliance between these two should already exist, and equally natural that neither Yugoslavia nor Czecho-Slovakia can join this alliance, because *their* sympathies with Russia are a matter of tradition, and there is no contentious matter between them and her save the Communistic world view. And so no decision was reached.

The Bulgarian question, too, did not get beyond the stage of discussion. At a first glance it might appear that the interests of Yugoslavia and Roumania must be identical in this question. This is not so, however. Both States have absorbed Bulgarian territory. But the Bulgars recognise only Macedonian Irredentism. The fact is that to Bulgaria the outlet on the Ægean is incomparably more important than the ports on the Black Sea, which—owing to the Straits—is not an open sea.

In connection with the Bulgarian question and that of the return of the Turks to Europe it is more than probable that the question of the entry of Greece into the Little Entente came up likewise. Yet it is not strange that this question never matured so far as even to be officially mentioned. The one link between the Little Entente and Greece is Yugoslavia. Relations between Serbia and Greece were at one time the best imaginable, but they are scarcely so good now. Greece's attitude during the world War and sundry other military experiences, no less than the constant complaints of harsh persecution which reach this country from the three hundred thousand Serbs in Greece, have between them cooled, if not entirely obliterated, the old sympathies.

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Finally, the still open question of the Yugoslav zone in the harbour of Salonika is one more reason why the connecting link is at this moment not up to the strain of transmitting Greek aspirations for the formation of a Balkan alliance.

The Sinaia Conference must be described as successful, and this is borne out by the nomination of Dr. Benesh as candidate for the Little Entente in the Council of the League of Nations.

The Question of Fiume.

The Fiume question has come to a deadlock, or rather to a point of great danger. The Italian Government demands a solution of the Fiume question which would inevitably entail a revision of the Treaty of Rapallo. Now, for all Yugoslavs without distinction—whether adherents of the Great Serbian or of the Raditch Party, whether Radicals or Democrats, not to mention the Slovenes, Croats, and Dalmatians of the littoral—the Treaty of Rapallo represents the extreme limit of sacrifice. Apart from this, it must be remembered that Yugoslavia is in urgent need of a good harbour, and that to this day Fiume alone is connected by rail with the interior. Yugoslavia was content to put up with an independent Fiume; but an Italian Fiume she cannot accept.

Because of the Fiume question relations between Italy and Yugoslavia have become greatly strained. Added to this, there are other annoyances which are really and truly superfluous, such as the Italian military demonstrations on the summit of the Truglav. It must be borne in mind that this mountain was worshipped as a god by the Slovenes in the old pagan days, and is even now regarded as national holy ground with reverent affection. Why summon the clouds arising from these military demonstrations? What can Italy hope to gain by pushing forward her frontier some five yards in the mountains that she permits these demonstrations?

Finally there is the fate of the Yugoslavs in Italy. By the electoral reform just adopted in Italy the 500,000 Yugoslavs there will not be able to put up an electoral list. It is at least open to question whether it would be better for the Italian State that two or three Yugoslav deputies in the Italian Parliament should testify to the rights of this considerable national minority, or that the complete absence of any such deputies should bear witness to its complete outlawry.

Dangerous inflammable matter for the whole of Europe lies in the Adriatic question.

The Government Crisis.

Smoothly and without fuss the Radical Club dealt with the most important of its Parliamentary cares. Only one remains, the bestowal of six portfolios. Personal questions are always the most knotty questions in every party, and so it is not to be wondered at if even in the well-disciplined Radical Club they are creating a certain amount of difficulty. But M. Pashitch's authority, which is recognised throughout the club, provides the guarantee that this Government crisis—or rather party crisis—too, will find its solution, though not an altogether painless one.

The Internal Position.

The internal position is quieting down, and the *espionage* and treason affair, which opened so sensationally, has petered out. Not every word that is said in Yugoslavia should be taken too seriously. For the rest, all interest is at present centring round the communal elections in Serbia and Montenegro, where the final battle between Radicals and Democrats for predominance among the Serbs will be fought out. In Belgrade the prospects of the Democrats are good, but in the country the Radicals' position is better, unless the Agrarian Party may yet spoil the reckoning of both. But one had better not prophesy. August 18 will bring the decision, whatever it is.

A British Loan for Yugoslavia.

The visit of a British General to Belgrade is connected over here with negotiations for an impending loan from Great Britain. Since the Belgrade Government refused to go on with the American Blair loan, so-called, efforts have been made to secure a British loan for the construction of new railways. For Yugoslavia's future relations with Great Britain such a loan would be of importance, and therefore it is hoped that it will be realised. Not until British capital and industry take an active interest in Yugoslavia will the door be securely shut and bolted against German penetration eastwards.

It will not do to underrate the German question.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 1.

The True State of Albania.

The most perfect tranquillity reigns in Albania. The recent rumours of a revolt in the north, having as its object the setting of the Prince of Wied once more upon the throne, were devoid of all foundation, and emanated for reasons not altogether clear from Serbian sources, whence rumours of this kind are frequently circulated. Responsible British newspapers should refrain from publishing such reports pending verification, for they are thereby only hampering the efforts being made by British firms to develop commercial relations with Albania by raising false alarms as to the stability of the Albanian Government. Verification is an easy matter, for the Foreign Office is continuously informed of the situation over here, and, alternatively, a telegram addressed to Colonel Stirling, the British Adviser to the Albanian Ministry of the Interior, Tirana, would be promptly and authoritatively answered.

As a matter of fact, during the past year and a half, since Achmet Bey Zogu has been head of the Administration, nothing has occurred to disturb the country's tranquillity. The population has been effectively disarmed—a very remarkable achievement. Moreover, during the whole of this period hardly a case has occurred of tribal vendetta, at one time so disgracefully prevalent. Nor do the Christian populations of the centre and south any longer complain of unequal and arbitrary treat-

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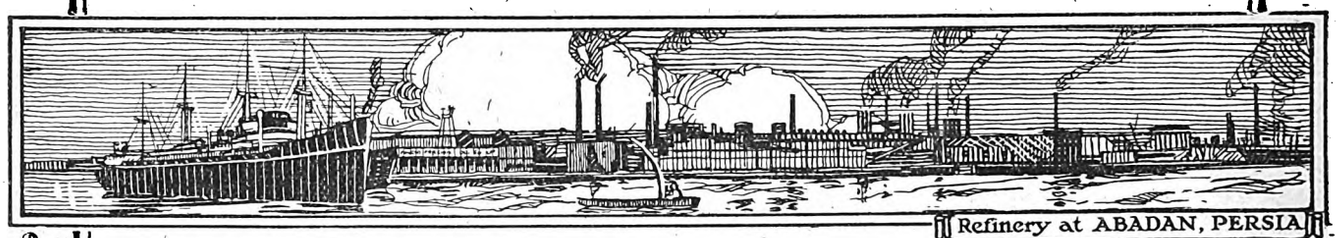

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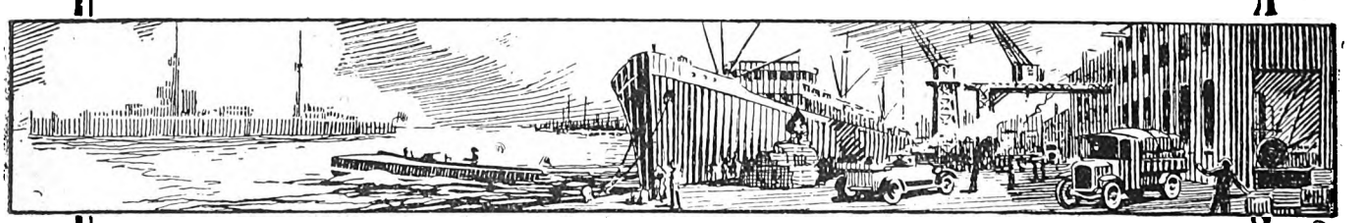

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ment by the favoured Mussulman classes, as occurred under the Turkish régime. Christians are everywhere rejoicing over this altered condition of affairs.

Foreign Advisers.

If progress in other directions has not been rapid, it has been at least steady. The services of three expert foreign advisers have been secured by the Government, namely, that of Colonel Stirling to the Ministry of the Interior, that of M. Hunger to the Ministry of Finance (through the help of the League of Nations), and that of Reissler Pasha, the eminent German engineer, who built the Hejaz railway, to the Ministry of Public Works. These officials are now settling down to their labours, and it will not be long before the results of their experience become apparent in the directions of administrative reform, improved financial conditions, and the development of communications. In this last respect, which reflects the most urgent need of the country, two new roads, one connecting Durazzo with Elbasán, the other connecting the northern road system based on Durazzo with the southern road system based on Valona, have already reached an advanced stage of construction.

In addition to the above, an Italian agricultural expert is in charge of the Government School of Agriculture established at Lushnia, and Dr. Haig, the medical expert of the League of Nations, is visiting the country at the present time for the purpose of presenting a report on the general conditions of health and hygiene, with the special object of securing such measures as the Government may be able to afford with the help of the League to combat the malaria scourge. Durazzo, which hitherto has been notoriously subject to malaria, has by a few simple means already become comparatively healthy.

Parliament and Concessions

Parliament is to be convened in extraordinary session on the 20th of this month to consider the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's concession, together with one in favour of an Italian company for the purpose of land reclamation in the fertile district of the Musakiya. It will also consider the question of the tobacco monopoly, after which, preliminary to dissolution, a new electoral law will be discussed.

IRAK.

Baghdad, July 25.

The Incidence of the Eed.

To-day is the first day of the Eed in Baghdad, though, according to the calendar, it ought to have been yesterday. There seems to have been some difficulty this year in deciding on which day the new moon was actually seen, with a result that many of the officials did not know until quite late on Monday night whether they would have to attend the King's levée on Tuesday morning or not. Seeing that he has had eight or nine days in which to make up his mind on which night the new moon was first seen, the kadi or other official responsible might reasonably have been expected to do better than that.

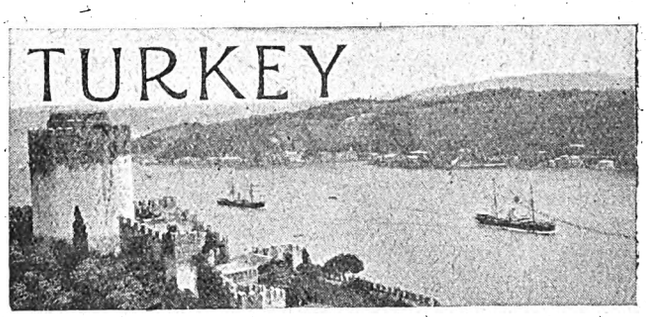
The Elections.

The elections are now the order of the day. In all liwas preparations are on foot, committees of supervision are being elected, the electoral rolls are being prepared, and it really looks as though there will be elections this time. The opposition which was so marked when the preparatory work was put in hand last year has to a large extent died down, and it is confidently hoped that a result to some extent representative of general opinion may be reached. A section of the vernacular Press is very insistently demanding certain alterations in the electoral law, and from time to time assures the public that the Government has the matter in hand and will shortly issue the instructions necessary to bring the promised changes into effect. No changes have yet been announced, however, and it seems very doubtful whether any will be made. It is recognised that the present law is only temporary to produce an Assembly which can deal with the constitutional law and formulate rules and regulations for the holding of elections for such assemblies as the constitutional law may lay down. To try to make minor alterations now would be unwise. There is other more important work lying to hand.

It is noticeable that since the departure of Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi and the other Ulema from Kerbela and Nejef the opposition to the elections in the Kerbela liwa has passed away, and preparations for holding them are now on foot in that liwa no less than in the others.

The Death of Daoud Yusufani.

The death is announced from Mosul of Daoud Yusufani, a prominent member of the Christian community in that town. Before the War he was one of the deputies for Mosul in the Stamboul Parliament, and on the occupation of Mosul by the British force in 1918 he become Political Attaché to the Political Officer, a post which he occupied until the arrival of Sir Percy Cox in 1920, and on the institution of the Arab Government he became Minister without portfolio in the Nakeeb's first Cabinet. Irak can at the present time ill afford to lose men possessing Daoud Yusufani's ability and experience of public life.



Constantinople, August 7.

The New Assembly.

The subject which gives most food for thought in these dull days is the actions and temper of the new Assembly, which will probably meet about the middle of this month. Slight indications of what people are thinking leak through into the Press. The recent statement that the Assembly would not perpetuate the attributes of Commander-in-Chief to Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha is probably inspired, and, although the lapse of his extraordinary powers is a natural consequence of the change from a state of war to that of peace, many people read in it a sign of the decadence of his personal power and status. If such is really the case, it will become in the near future a political problem of the first magnitude to find a substitute for his all-pervasive, unifying influence. There cannot yet be any question of the governance of Turkey by this, that, or the other political party; the only government that has a ghost of a chance is one that is under the control of one or two men, and it is not easy to see who are at present of sufficiently important standing or experience in any other party to inspire confidence or command a following.

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Mustapha Kemal would appear to be justified if he thinks it is a case of *après moi le deluge*. There is no doubt, however, that a fairly strong potential opposition is hidden away in the ranks of the People's Party, and its influence may appear quite early in the Assembly's proceedings.

The Press on the Settlement.

The Press has been taking the past week or ten days to think over the various decisions taken at Lausanne and the various problems of the day. Place of honour has been accorded to the exchange of populations agreement. The *Tanin* has expressed the view that all open-minded observers have long held—namely, that the Moslems of Greece and the Balkans will be losing a good deal by being eradicated from their settled homesteads in comparative civilisation to be dumped in the desolate wastes of ravaged Anatolia. They are basing their hopes of comfortable installation in the financial assistance of the Turkish Government, which is reported to be going to open a credit of ten million pounds for this object; but nobody knows whence the ten millions are coming. The Circassians who were transferred from the Balkans to Anatolia before the War have had no reason to congratulate themselves upon their fate, and there are very good grounds for supposing that those Moslems who are threatened with transmigration view the prospect with alarm; also the Turkish Government itself is credited with a disposition to obstruct as much as possible the expulsion of the exchangeable Moslems from Greece. The necessity for any such exchange is a melancholy fact, and fills one with evil forebodings for the future.

The Patriarchate.

The question of the Patriarchate has not been advanced. The Turkish authorities are doubtless postponing it until the constitution of the new Government, and the attempts of the Synod to get into official touch with the authorities have failed. Meanwhile, the local Greek Press is engaged in a polemic as to the policy to be pursued, one pair of papers favouring an immediate settlement of the crisis and another counselling delay. An interesting state of affairs is disclosed by the hearing of the libel case against the Patriarch brought by the excommunicated Greeks, and Western Europeans will hardly realise the efficacy of ecclesiastical authority. One of the excommunicated bitterly complained that since his excommunication his employers discharged him and he has not been able to find another place; little boys throw stones at him, doctors avoid him, and the barber who inadvertently shaved him in ignorance of his outlawry ceremoniously washed his hands after the operation. All one can say is, good luck to the Orthodox Church; it has managed to maintain some remnants of old-time discipline.

Cabinet Responsibility.

Another matter of prime importance, to which I casually referred last week, is coming into greater prominence, viz., the modification of the law of the Constitution in the sense of creating the collective responsibility of the Cabinet. The *Vatan* is responsible for the statement that a commission of members of the Defence of Rights party is preparing a plan by which the President of the Assembly will be chosen by the Assembly itself; he will submit the names of two Deputies for each post in the Cabinet, and these will be submitted to the Assembly, which will choose one of them by ballot. The inconveniences of the present system are manifest, and this new proposal appears to be a reasonable half-way house between it and the system in vogue throughout Europe.

The Growth of Reason.

Refreshing frankness is shown in the discussion of the Executive's action on a variety of subjects. The troublesome passport regulations which were enforced a month or so ago, come in for some sound criticism. It is pointed out that the authorities first commit themselves to a retrograde policy of restriction of movement when other States are relaxing these hindrances to free communication. When a Great Power protests, Angora gives way, not because it has changed its principles, but because it is a Great Power which is annoyed. When the smaller Powers protest, they are told, in effect, says the *Vatan*, "We have adopted this principle, we do not quite know why; we cannot apply it to the Great Powers, but we think we are strong enough to apply it to you." The paper goes on to touch the spot very effectively in inquiring why Angora cannot trust its representatives abroad and in Constantinople to keep an efficient eye on undesirables, since they are in a much better position to do so than the functionaries who spend a month circulating the relative papers to a series of other functionaries as ignorant as themselves? This is plain speaking indeed; and when it goes on to deplore the effect produced upon foreigners by these bureaucratic futilities, one rubs one's eyes and asks where is the Turkey of 1922 which did not care a straw for any foreigners?

Local Details.

The local domestic events in Constantinople during the past week are of no particular significance. The Allied Forces and the Turkish Command have agreed on a system of military courtesies, such as salutes of sentries, and so on, compatible with the new relations consequent upon the signature of peace. Commissions are being formed to carry out and carry into effect the details of the coming evacuation, and various individuals and agencies are offering their services for the disposal of surplus furniture, personal effects, and so forth. There has been a gratifying reduction in the number and gravity of unpleasant incidents between the Allied Forces and the Turkish authorities and public order is being well maintained by the police.

During the week Constantinople was visited for thirty-six hours by a party of 600 American tourists, who arrived in the s.s. "Tuscania" and were effusively welcomed by the Turkish association of guides and the bazaar merchants, who have been having a very lean time. Their visit was marred by an accident which might well have been serious, but, happily, was not. A large crowd pressed into a small upper room in the Near East Relief Headquarters at Ortakeuy to inspect the bargains for sale, and the floor settled down into an inverted cone filled with struggling tourists. British ambulances were quickly on the spot; but, luckily, nothing more serious than bruises were to be treated. The party included the Goodwill delegation which has been examining social conditions, and while they were here they went over the Selimie Barracks and other refugee camps.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 16 (New Style).
August 3 (Old Style).
Moharrem 2, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 3, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. L. S. Amery and Mrs. Amery have left London for Chamonix.

Princess Ileana of Roumania has arrived at the Ritz Hotel from Paris.

M. Michel Boeresco, formerly Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires in London, left town last week for Paris.

Field-Marshal Lord Plumer, Governor of Malta, and Lady Plumer left London on Monday on their return to Malta.

It is announced that the wedding of Prince Paul of Serbia and Princess Olga of Greece will take place in October.

M. Milan Stefanovitch, Secretary at the Legation for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week for Torquay.

Sir Prabashankar Pattani, President of the Bhavanagar Council of Regency, left London last week for Duff House, Ruthin Castle, North Wales.

Sir James Allen, New Zealand's Commissioner in London, left Constantinople on August 9 to visit the Gallipoli battlefields and the Anzac cemeteries.

M. Vidosav Andjelkovitch, Attaché at the Legation for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last week, with Mme. Andjelkovitch, for Belgrade.

Lord Headley, who, as a Moslem, has been engaged on the pilgrimage to Mecca, where he was the guest of King Hussein for three weeks, arrived at Jeddah on Friday on his way home.

Major-General Sir James Stewart and Major-General Sir Patrick Hehir, who have been in Greece as Chief Commissioner and Medical Adviser respectively to the British Red Cross Society, have now returned to England.

Mr. Hasan Imam, who shares with Lord Hardinge of Penshurst the representation of British India at the League of Nations Assembly, has arrived in London and is staying with his brother, Sir Ali Imam, at 29, Chesham Place.

The King has granted to Mr. Herbert St. George Peacock authority to wear the Insignia of the Second Class of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the King of Egypt (when Sultan) in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

Among the recipients of Civil List Pensions, granted during the financial year ended March 31, are Dr. Charles Montagu Doughty (£150), "in recognition of his services to literature," and Miss Kawara Kitchener (£100), "in recognition of the distinguished military services of her step-brother (the late Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G., O.M.)."

The Bulgarian Minister, who recently returned from the Lausanne Conference, left London on Sunday for Sofia, on leave. M. Stoyan Petroff, First Secretary, will act as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister. Mme. Stancioff, with her youngest daughter, has left for Varna, Bulgaria. She will be away from London for the rest of the summer and the autumn.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, Etc.

Mr. Norman Wright Kemp has been appointed a Judge of the Bombay High Court.

Mr. Irwin Laughlin, formerly Counsellor at the United States Embassy in London, has been appointed Minister to Greece.

It is reported that Aziz Pasha Izzet has been appointed Egyptian Minister in London. He is a son of the late Abdullah Pasha Izzet el Arnaut.

The appointment of Mr. Herbert Churchill Wrigley Grimshaw (President of the District Court of Paphos), to be Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of Cyprus, has been gazetted, under date August 4.

Mr. C. G. Adam, I.C.S., and Major H. G. Vaux, C.I.E., M.V.O., will continue as private secretary and military secretary respectively to the Governor of Bombay on Colonel Leslie Wilson's assumption of office.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1923.

INDIA'S NEIGHBOURS.

At the moment it looks as if India might have to pay, perhaps rather heavily, for her persistent failure to reckon with the opinion of the world. The attitude of the bulk of Indian politicians, as exemplified, for instance, in regard to Kenya, is comprehensible, and indeed natural, but its reaction abroad is necessarily unfavourable, and foreigners imperfectly acquainted with the peculiarities of Indian mentality may be pardoned if they begin to ask whether much is to be hoped for from people who allow their feelings to blind them to so many considerations of practical importance, as well as to the patent inconsistency between their demands abroad and the social conditions prevailing in their motherland. We describe this attitude as natural, because it has its roots far back in history. Indian culture has in the past usually been characterised by a bland self-sufficiency, sometimes pathetic, at others almost ridiculous, and by a secular contempt for her neighbours, broken only by spasms of abject terror when one or other of those neighbours has been tempted to plunder her treasures and slaughter her sons in thousands. Invaders might come and go, but the mountain-walls remained, and in their shelter grew up this self-centred habit of mind, which now, after many centuries of isolation, has an opportunity of manifesting itself abroad, and which is doing more than anything else to tarnish the reputation of India in the eyes of the world at large. The beginnings of a change may indeed be detected here and there among Indians who have visited distant lands, but it spreads very slowly, and well-wishers of the country are tempted to search for possibilities of such foreign intercourse as might bring new influences to bear on Indians in the mass, and thus accelerate a movement which is becoming seriously overdue.

From this point of view, however, it must be admitted that a glance along the land frontier of India is not encouraging. On the extreme flanks natural conditions render practically impossible any extensive intercourse, whether cultural or commercial, with Persia on the West, or with Siam and Indo-China on the East. The centre is perhaps slightly more hopeful, for there have of late been signs of a certain weakening in the long-standing isolation characteristic of Tibet and Nepal. We hear of increased desires in these regions to enjoy some of the conveniences of modern civilisation, and also to maintain more friendly relations with the Indian Government, and this is all to the good, but the movement is slow, and at the best its effects could only be small. The inquirer is thus reduced to the possibilities of two very different regions—of China on the North-East and Afghanistan on the North-West. If the world had been organised as a sociological laboratory, one of the earliest investigations carried out would have been directed to a study of the interaction of Indian and Chinese culture in the mass, and we are justified in hoping that the process will eventually take place, but the time for it has not yet come. China is changing, but even her best friends will admit that she has not yet produced an effective organ for enforcing, or even expressing, the national will, and until it has been expressed caution must still be the watch-word on a frontier which has been the scene of conflict in the past. The will of the new China may prove to be the will to war, and, so long as any uncertainty exists, it is impossible to press for the opening up of new channels by which interaction on the large scale could freely take place. On the side of Afghanistan, too, we are confronted with problems rather than solutions. The present ruler of the country is undoubtedly one of the most interesting of the minor figures now on the world's stage. His judgment is not infallible, as has been shown by events too recent to require recapitulation, but he has done much in a very short time in pursuance of his object to make his country an important factor in the politics of Asia. At the moment, indeed, there are suggestions that he may have done too much, and that the reactionary forces, which certainly exist, may become dangerously prominent; but the new inspiration is likely to be durable, though its strength may fluctuate, and the permanent interests of both countries would be furthered by a large development of frank and friendly intercourse. It will be a definite gain for the world when Afghans shall have ceased to regard Indians as people only worth looting, and when Indians shall be able to look on Afghans as something more than murderous marauders; but such changes in national sentiment cannot be effected in a moment, and the most that can be hoped for is the gradual development of a sentiment of mutual respect, leading in time to a more cordial relationship.

Men of a seafaring race are tempted to suppose that a country with such neighbours on its land frontiers will seek and find its friends mainly across the water, and India occupies a position naturally favourable for extended intercourse with the East as well as with the West. Indians could indeed derive almost incalculable benefit from accurate knowledge of other parts of Asia, whether of the partial synthesis already effected in Japan, of the remarkable achievements of the French in Indo-China, or of the busy island-empire of the Dutch; but in each case difficulties of language reinforce the social and religious obstacles in the way of sea-travel, which, though they are gradually giving way, are still factors to be taken into serious account. By sea, then, as by land, the conditions which exist afford little encouragement for the hope that India can benefit in the near future, as other countries have benefited in the past, by rubbing shoulders freely with men of other races. All the greater is the obligation which rests on the privileged few to turn their opportunities of travel to the best account, and to share with their home-staying countrymen the benefits they have enjoyed. Three centuries ago a proverbial saying was popular in Europe to describe travellers who failed to show that they had profited by distant journeys; such men were compared to the mainmast, "which has also been to India," and the gibe is unfortunately not wholly inapplicable to some of the Indians who have returned to their homes, showing no signs that they have ever been abroad. India stands in urgent need of enlightened criticism of her institutions, her habits, and her methods of work. Like most other nations, she is apt to resent the criticisms of foreigners, however well-intentioned they may be, and the very fact that competent Indian critics are necessarily few in number increases the obligation which rests on those few to throw their acquired knowledge into the common national stock.

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AN EARLY TRAVELLER IN THE SUDAN AND ABYSSINIA.

By "ABU NAKHLA."

The first two instalments of this article, which is here concluded, were contained in the issues of THE NEAR EAST *for June 7 and August 9.*—ED.

An interesting account of the feudal system of Abyssinia as developed and used by the Emperor Menelik was published in the *Quarterly Review* of January, 1922, and it is interesting to compare it with that found by Poncet. It is clear that Menelik used the materials to his hand, though he greatly extended and tightened up a system which had been in force for centuries. In the time of Poncet both Tigre and Gojjam were subject to the Crown of Gondar, and "Agau" is mentioned as a recent acquisition to the Empire. War against the Galla and Shangalla was an annual affair, and we know that they were not finally subdued until the time of Menelik. These tribes seem to have been able to put up a fairly stubborn defence, aided by the inaccessible nature of their country and the use of poisoned arrows. Of the feudal system Poncet says:—

The great Power of the Emperour arises from hence, that he is absolute Master of all the Wealth of his Subjects. He gives, and he takes away as he thinks fit. When the Head of a Family happens to die, he seizes upon all his Real Estate, of which he leaves two Thirds to the Children as Heirs. He disposes of the other Third to some Favourite, who by that Means becomes his Feudatary, and is obliged to serve him in time of War at his own Expences, and to furnish him with Soldiers in proportion to the Estate he gives. . . .

Poncet visited Lake Tsana, which he calls Bahal Dembea, but was prevented by illness from visiting the source of the Blue Nile, of which he gives only a hearsay account. With the Lake he was delighted, and spent three days there with the Emperor in one of his island palaces, to which the party crossed in boats made of reeds. Poncet saw here his first hippopotamus, and draws as freely as usual on his own imagination and on the credulity of his readers in describing them:—

. . . . Notice was given to the Emperour that four River-Horses appear'd upon the Lake. We had the Diversion to behold them for half an Hour. They drove the Water before them, and darted themselves up very high. The Skin of two of those Animals was white, and of the two others red. Their Heads resembled that of a Horse, but their Ears were shorter. I could not frame a Judgment of the rest of their Bodies, having only seen them confusedly. Those River-Horses are amphibious Creatures which come out of the River to feed upon the Grass of the Banks, from whence they often carry away Goats and Sheep, which they eat. Their Skin is much esteem'd; they make Bucklers of them, which are Proof against a Musket or Lance. The Æthiopians eat the Flesh of these Animals, which must needs be unwholesome Food. The Manner of taking them is this. As soon as they discover one they follow him with Sword in Hand, and cut his Legs; not being able any longer to swim, he comes to the River Side, where he bleeds to death. The Emperour commanded a Cannon to be shot against these River-Horses, but not being nimble enough in shooting the Animals div'd into the Water and disappear'd.

The introduction of firearms into Abyssinia has doubtless altered the methods of hunting, but Sir Samuel Baker found the Hamran Arabs on the upper reaches of the Atbara and on the Setit rivers hunting elephant, lion, and hippopotamus in a manner very much the same as that described by Poncet.

In due course Poncet craved and obtained from the Emperor a reluctant consent to his departure, and on May 2, 1700, started on his journey to the coast at Massawa, which he reached without misadventure. He records that on the way he visited a monastery which contained a miracle in the shape of a rod of gold that remained always suspended in the air above the altar of the church, although not supported by any natural agency. This he vouches for, and adds that he verified it by passing his cane on all sides of the golden rod. There is nothing new under the sun, and even Mr. Maskelyne was not, apparently, the first in the field.

Massawa, then in the hands of the Turks, was a place of little military strength, "and a single Man of War well mann'd would easily make it self Master of it." Indeed, the appearance in the roads during Poncet's visit of a British war vessel threw the whole place into a panic, until the commander sent assurances ashore that he had no hostile intentions. Moreover, the Turks were perforce careful to maintain good relations with the Abyssinians, on whom they depended for all supplies, and on whose suffrance, therefore, they continued to hold the place. They were glad enough to extend a cordial reception to Poncet, who held a recommendation from the Emperor at Gondar.

The Pasha at Massawa had a subordinate officer in charge of the port at Suakin, where the trade in pearls and oyster shells was in a prosperous condition.

The Emperor had determined to send an ambassador to accompany Poncet to the Court of France, but this functionary was delayed by the ceremonies attending the death of Basil, the Emperor's son, and Poncet left Massawa without him on the first sea-worthy vessel that offered; it was not until his stay at the monastery of Sinai that the Abyssinian ambassador finally joined him. Even the modern *sambuk* or dhow of the Red Sea hardly affords ideal accommodation for a European, and we may sympathise with Poncet in his refusal to trust himself to anything so frail as the country craft of two centuries ago, with their leaky hulls and sails of matting:—

I had no mind to hazzard my self in the ships of the Country, which appear'd to be very slight and unsafe, the Planks altho' pitch'd and tarr'd, being only fasten'd together with pitiful cords, as well as the Sails, which are only made of Mats of the Leaves of *Dome*. Notwithstanding, these Vessels, altho' so ill rigg'd out, and worse govern'd, carry a great Weight, and altho' they have not above seven or eight Men to manage them, they are of great Use in all that Sea.

Navigation through the reefs of the coast was by day only, and Jedda was not reached until December 5, 1700, after a voyage of thirty-seven days. The Turkish hold on the Hejaz was then passing through one of its more precarious phases.

Two Days after my Arrival at *Gedda*, the King of *Mecca* came thither with an Army of Twenty thousand Men. He pitch'd his Tents, and encamp'd at the Gate of the Town which leads to *Mecca*. I had a sight of him; he is a Man of about Sixty Years of Age, of a Majestick Presence, and somewhat of a ghastly Look. He has a slit in the under Lip upon the right Side. His Subjects and Neighbours do not much commend his Sweetness and Clemency. He oblig'd the Bacha, who resides at *Gedda* for the Grand Signior, to give him Fifteen thousand Crowns of Gold, and threaten'd him with Military Execution, if he did not forthwith obey.

This sum, with another of twice the same amount, which he extracted from the merchants,

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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the Shereef distributed amongst his troops. The claim of the Khalif at Constantinople to appoint the Shereef of Mecca was then in abeyance, and wholesale pillaging of caravans was rife. From Jedda Poncet took ship to Yambio and Tor, now the International Quarantine Station for the Egyptian Pilgrimage. From Tor he made a journey inland to the monastery at Mount Sinai, and was there joined after a stay of a month by the dilatory ambassador from Gondar. He again embarked at Tor, and, in due course, reached Suez and Cairo, where we may leave him recounting his adventures of the past three years to Monsieur Maillet, the French Consul, and planning to return to France and give an account of his mission to the Court.

If he had a rather excessive aptitude for "adorning a tale," we must give him credit for great pluck and endurance, and thank him for a vivid and quite reasonably accurate picture of the North-East Africa of his day.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE HUNTER OF WISDOM.

"THE BRAHMIN'S TREASURE." By C. E. Bechhofer. (London: Mills and Boon. 7s. 6d. net.)

We have heard in novels enough, and far more than enough, of the glamour of the East; but we have not had, until we read this book by Mr. Bechhofer, put before us with such strength and certainty the appeal of India's spirit and peace. The author makes out that his central figure, an Englishman called Hewitt, can attain quiet of spirit (and implied quiet of body) only in India; and though we are not convinced of the permanency of Hewitt's belief, the story of his development is interestingly done.

The novel begins with Hewitt in India, tired of yet indulging in the futile wastefulnesses of the white man's life there, and eventually succumbing to the temptation of "going native." He comes strongly under the influence (one suspects that all through his life he will be far too easily influenceable) of a Brahmin philosopher; and one knows that while this influence is working on him his love affairs (not really, but ostensibly such) will count for little. But on being recalled to England he is forced once more to recognise the material side of life. Bad luck follows him; he resorts, through weakness, rather than strength, to desperate measures, and, for a man of his moral command and philosophic inclination, falls pretty low.

It is at this point that Mr. Bechhofer becomes rather a propagandist, a reporter, than a novelist, for he introduces, with no disguise at all, famous persons in an important movement of to-day. Everyone will recognise his portraits—for they are faithfully drawn—of the Editor of the best weekly (until recently), the novelist in Eastern tales, and so on. Into this group Hewitt is drawn; from the Editor he seizes the value of the "Mahabharata," and from the leader of the Editor's philosophic sect, Kharaif, he learns a little how to see the wisdom of the East in terms of modern life. But in the West he cannot properly apprehend or translate his new values; he returns, having attained a certain minimum of prosperity, to India, to seek at his ease and unhampered by humans, the sageness and knowledge of the Brahmin. There the book ends.

It is all very readable and interesting. Mr. Bechhofer has, of course, excellent descriptive gifts and a certain restraint in language that are useful indeed for his present purpose. But one doubts whether his Hewitt really digested the new (or very old) doctrines; one doubts his stability; one doubts his self-reliance. In his character there are far too many digressions, diversions which have little part with the whole of his character, marring even an approximate synthesis. Similarly with the book, which is, one imagines, founded far too closely on actual (and sometimes real) experience to merit the name of novel; though it begins firmly and ends with precise lack of finality, it wobbles and wanders into inconsequent and insignificant places in the middle. Mr. Bechhofer has seen Hewitt's life whole enough, but he has not envisaged it steadily.

THE BRITISH EMPIRE AND THE SUBALTERN.

"FORTY YEARS A SOLDIER." A Volume of Recollections by Major-General Sir George Younghusband, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd, 16s. net.)

Sir George Younghusband has a story worth telling and the gift of being able to tell it fluently and clearly. During his forty years of soldiering (forty years all but ten days, he tells us, ending on November 11, 1918), he fought on the Indian Frontier, in the Sudan, in Burmah, through the Boer War, and in Mesopotamia in the Great War. All that he has to tell us of the Corps of Guides, which he joined soon after the beginning of his service, and which he commanded for five years, is a welcome addition to our knowledge of a Corps whose name stands for the romance of danger and magnificent courage. He writes with enthusiasm of his memories of the adventures and perils which he shared in Afghanistan as a subaltern. The chapters on the Boer War are interesting and give a vivid impression of the character of the fighting. Of the "Mesopotamian Tragedy," it is easy to see that he forces himself to write with difficulty and pain. Most of Sir George Younghusband's stories are decidedly entertaining. This is particularly the case in those which show his own quickness and resource, as when he tells us how, at the time of the Fashoda trouble, he contrived to see the forts of Saigon from a French ship. But, although a book of autobiographical memoirs must necessarily contain a great deal about the author, this one strikes us chiefly as being written in praise of Sir George Younghusband's comrades on his many campaigns and adventures. He writes proudly of their friendship and comradeship—both of those who fell, some so soon after they and he had left Sandhurst, and of those to whom a footnote refers with a title and a string of letters after their names. If it should be possible that anyone, so soon after the Great War, should need to be reminded of the greatness of the British subaltern he would find the reminder here. "He is a priceless and peerless person, the finest knight the world has ever seen." He "is the root and kernel of the whole matter." And, indeed, the whole book, not omitting the chapters on polo and on hawking, might be said to be written in his honour. It seems to us that a book like this, written with such sincerity, should stand well the test of time as a record of those who with an unquestioning belief in the greatness of the British Empire, light hearts, and great courage devoted their lives to the service of their country through the extraordinary rapidity of the changes brought about during this period of forty years.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"Palestine: The Land of Three Faiths." By Philip Graves. With an Introduction by D. G. Hogarth, C.M.G. (London: Jonathan Cape. 12s. 6d. net.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

A FUTURE FOR CONSTANTINOPLE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—With the Lausanne Treaty out of the way and Constantinople about to be freed from the Army of Occupation, the Turks can devote themselves entirely to their domestic affairs, and proceed with the difficult task of putting their house in order. But what interests them and the Moslem world more, perhaps, than anything else is the guardianship of the Holy Places of Islam, which offers a problem by no means simple, and one which we ourselves have created by our supporting King Hussein's pretensions to independence in the Hejaz.

The recent incident in connection with the "Kisweh," or Holy Carpet as we call it, gives some idea of the troubles which are likely to arise in the future with a ruler at Mecca independent of the Khalifa—a ruler who can, as it were, dictate to the rest of the Mohammedan world the form of pilgrimage which, in the future, will be acceptable in the Holy City.

Whether the Ka-aba should be venerated by the annual presentation of a Kisweh fabricated in Cairo at great cost appears, at first sight, a matter which concerns only the Egyptians, especially as it seems to have been a task self-imposed by a former ruler in Egypt. Nevertheless, to judge from the haste with which King Hussein provided another Kisweh for the Ka-aba, the ceremony appears to be prescribed by the Mohammedan religion; should, therefore, the Egyptian Government in the future cease to show its veneration by refusing to send the Kisweh, unless accompanied by a Medical Mission of a certain strength, will it be regarded as an affront to the Mohammedan religion or merely as a snub for King Hussein? Further, what effect will such refusal have with the people of Egypt who annually speed the departure of the Kisweh with much pomp and ceremony? Again, were the Egyptian Government to appeal to the Khalifa and obtain a ruling in its favour—will King Hussein obey that ruling? If not, who is going to enforce the same, and shall we interfere to prevent our *protégé*, King Hussein, from attack by either Egypt or Turkey? This last question must be answered in the negative; yet without our backing the Kingdom of the Hejaz will not last long. Troubles are certainly *sur le tapis* in more senses than one, and those who contend that the guardianship of the Holy Places of Islam must rest with the Khalifate or some authority delegated by the Khalifa know what they are talking about.

Of course, it is quite on the cards that King Hussein resuscitates the Arab Khalifate, and proclaims himself Khalifa, but how long would he last without our assistance? And is the rest of the Mohammedan world, with the exception, perhaps, of Irak, likely to accept such a solution? Were the existing Khalifa still the Sultan of the Turkish Empire with *all his former power*, there can be no doubt what the answer would be; but we have yet to learn that the Moslems in general are prepared to accept a Khalifa shorn of all Temporal power and merely a puppet graciously permitted by the Angora Assembly to retain the title. It remains to be seen, also, whether the Turks themselves regard the present Sultan as nothing more than a *locum tenens* pending some more definite arrangement. It is quite possible that Mustapha Kemal Pasha intends to deal with the Khalifate question when the Turkish Constitution has been reconstructed more in keeping with the age, the old form of government with its "Church and State" not being to his liking.

The present writer is not in the confidence of the Turkish authorities, and has no information other than reports in the Press to assist him in forming the conclusions which he has reached. Nevertheless, he has in his own mind little doubt that the reform of the secular Constitution *first*, and of the religious Constitution later, is the policy which is actuating Mustapha Kemal and those with him, and, in his opinion, it is a very sound policy to follow. Further, the writer is prepared to make a shrewd guess regarding the manner in which this policy is likely to develop in the future.

The better to appreciate this forecast, it will be as well to bear in mind that a Sultan of Turkey has in the past enjoyed also the privileges of the Khalifa, not by virtue of any descent from the Prophet, but solely by the right of conquest. And if this right has never been seriously challenged during the last five hundred years, it is owing to the fact that there has been no Moslem ruler of sufficient power to dispute the claim. But although the spiritual power of the former Sultans has never been dangerously questioned, their temporal power has, as we all know, been continuously encroached on by their European neighbours. The War and the events following the War have, however, entirely changed the whole outlook. In the first place, Turkey has no longer any Arab dependencies, there being kings in Irak and the Hejaz, to say nothing of Arab States in the making in Palestine and in the trans-Jordan area. Egypt and Afghanistan also now enjoy complete independence, and the Moslems of India have been granted a political status which formerly they did not possess. The Khalifate question has, therefore, assumed an entirely new aspect, and the Turkish Government probably now recognises that a Khalifa can no longer govern without discretion, and must be one accepted by the other Mohammedan Powers. Otherwise he will not be tolerated for any length of time, though it may for the moment be regarded as treason to say so.

This is one side of the picture. On the other side we see a Turkish Government with its prestige greatly enhanced, thanks to Mustapha Kemal's victories over the Greeks and Ismet Pasha's diplomatic successes at Lausanne. We may take it, therefore, that, as regards any questions which may arise *with Europe*, these budding States will all be solidly behind the Turkish Government, and will look to Angora for guidance. Altogether it may be said that, though dismembered, the Turkish Empire has in reality lost nothing, and the

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Moslem cause in general has gained considerably. In short, it rests with the Turkish reformers to make good their victories. First, by not dissipating all that they have gained by bad government; and secondly, by conciliating the Arabs and Egyptians, till, Phœnix-like, "a United States of Islam" arises from the ashes of the former Turkish Empire. Are there Turkish statesmen capable of doing this?

Let us presume, at all events, that Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his lieutenants succeed in establishing a fairly representative Assembly at Angora, and (as many of us hope) that they will remain there. The assembly of a religious conference at Constantinople should be their next step, and to this conference all the neighbouring Mohammedan States should be invited to send delegates, the object of this conference being to frame a religious Constitution or Khalifate Council, to include sheiks and ulemas from all the Moslem States formerly incorporated in the Turkish Empire. It will, so it is hoped, be left to this Council to elect a Khalifa much in the same way as cardinals in Rome elect a Pope. The number of representatives from each State would be by agreement, the Turkish vote possibly predominating.

It is contended that the election of a Khalifa by a Council thus constituted would be in keeping with modern requirements, and will not conflict in any way with the democracy taught by the Prophet at Mecca. Moreover, seeing that the Turks have accepted the democratic principle in their secular Constitution, they cannot with reason refuse to do so in religious matters—with this difference: the secular Government, the State, will be the limit, whereas in religious matters the brotherhood of Islam recognises no boundaries.

It may be regarded as an impertinence for a non-Moslem even to suggest such a form of election; but when it is recognised that the writer has no interest whatsoever in the religious side of the question, and that the suggestion is merely put forward as the best means of attaining a political end, viz., the federation of certain Moslem States with the seat of the Federal Government at Constantinople, may his presumption be forgiven?

Anyhow, the writer is convinced that once a Khalifa's Council is established at Constantinople the advantages of economic unity will be discussed and a *Zallverein* will soon follow—are we not also taught that economic unity is the first step towards political unity? On the other hand, *without* such unity in religious government, before long there will certainly be an Arab Khalifa in the field, and a struggle for the Holy Places of Islam could then hardly be avoided. But it goes without saying that a Khalifa elected as indicated would be recognised as the *ex-officio* guardian of the Holy Cities, and his ruling accepted as final even if the King of the Hejaz was locally the Khalifa's representative.

Once Constantinople is accepted as the seat of the religious Government, the El Azzar University at Cairo would play a less prominent part in Moslem theology, even supposing that the larger number of students did not migrate to Constantinople. There would appear to be no reason either why in secular matters Constantinople should not become an educational centre, to which Mohammedan youths would flock to complete their studies instead of to the capitals of Europe, where, without becoming good Christians, many learn to be bad Mohammedans, failing to withstand the many temptations which surround them. Constantinople might even yet be selected as the seat of the League of Nations, and instead of being the storm centre of the world become the City of Peace.—

I am, etc.,

COLES PASHA.

London, August 8.

BRITISH GRAVES IN TURKEY.

By the terms of the Lausanne Treaty the Turkish Government are bound, within six months of being notified by each of the Allied Governments of their requirements, to concede in perpetuity the full and entire use of the land forming the sites of Allied cemeteries and other commemorative monuments. The area known as the Anzac area, about 2¼ square miles in extent, will be treated as one vast cemetery, in which the remains of many of those who have never been found will lie where they fell, near their comrades who are buried in the cemeteries close by.

Although the Turkish Government are bound to respect and maintain all Allied graves in their territory, the Treaty provides that all necessary facilities shall be given to national civil organisations—the Imperial War Graves Commission for the British Empire—who are entrusted with the construction and maintenance of the cemeteries. These national organisations alone have the right of concentrating their dead should concentration be necessary. Inasmuch as the construction of the British war cemeteries on the Peninsula is now nearly complete, no further removals are contemplated by the Imperial War Graves Commission. To enable the Turkish Government to have an accurate survey of the lands to be ceded, a kind of Boundary Commission will be appointed by each of the Allied Governments, on which the Turkish Government will nominate a representative. The duties of these Commissions will be to verify on the spot the existing sites, and forward the final plans to the Turkish Government to enable them to grant the formal concession in perpetuity. The determination of future sites that may be rendered necessary by the possibility of further concentration by any of the Allies will be made by the various Boundary Commissions in agreement with the Turkish representative. No rent, tax, or other imposition will be placed on the lands ceded, and access will be free at all times to the representatives of the Allied Governments and visitors to the graves.

The Cairo correspondent of *The Times* says that the first stage in the general election—namely, the election of secondary electors—which had been fixed for August 22, has been postponed for a month, as it has been found that many lists of voters have been incorrectly drawn up owing to the inexperience of the committees appointed for the purpose.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

British Reparations Policy.

The British Note to France and Belgium on Reparations and the Ruhr—a document which will rank with the most important of those that have seen the light since 1914, and the consequences of which may be of the most momentous character—shows the serious nature of the differences between the policy of this country and that of its Allies. France and Belgium have believed that by concentrating on the Ruhr policy they will attain the end desired by all the Allies. I use the past tense advisedly, for it is no longer certain that the force of circumstances has not altered the aim. This country, on the other hand, has all along been convinced that the goal is not to be attained by these means, and the present position is surely the clearest justification of this view. It is pointed out in the Note that the occupation of the Ruhr "has produced, at great cost, less receipts for the Allies, notably of coal and coke, than were forthcoming in the previous year"; and, further, that the Government "feel that the resulting situation involves great and growing danger to the peaceful trade of the world," and regards its continuance "as fraught with the gravest risks, both economic and political." In view of the known facts, it cannot be said that that is any too serious a survey of the position.

The Present Position.

One has only to look at some of the effects up to the present to realise how absolutely essential it is that a solution should be found for the impasse, and a speedy one at that. Until recently it cannot be said that this country has been directly affected by the Continental position; but we have now begun to feel the effects, and instead of being able to look forward to a development of the trade revival, we are faced with the unenviable possibility that the coming winter may witness a very marked increase of unemployment. The mark is the best evidence of the effect on Germany of the situation. In a few short weeks it has gone from a figure at which its recovery was possible to a quotation at which it no longer counts. Unfortunately, economic developments of this character are only too liable to have effects beyond their immediate environment, which only goes to show how vital it is to arrive at a settlement. A Germany reduced to poverty will help no one, will certainly not provide the wherewithal for Reparations, and will, on the contrary, be a positive menace to the economic welfare of the world.

The Egyptian Government and Cotton.

The Egyptian Government's decision to intervene in the cotton market, reference to which by our Cairo Correspondent will be found on another page, is rather surprising, and in present conditions must be regarded as a somewhat venturesome move, if, as it is reported, it is intended to purchase cotton on a large scale. Attempts have been made to persuade the Government to intervene on several occasions recently, but without success, and it would appear that this change of policy is due to the big cotton growers. Of course, there is no getting away from the fact that the low price of cotton has been a grave disadvantage, but it is open to doubt whether Government intervention is justified. At the very best it can only be a remedial measure of a temporary character. The price of cotton depends on the operation of the law of supply and demand, and on no other factor, and it is difficult to see how the withholding from the market for the time being of a considerable amount of cotton can ease the position. Ultimately, the cotton must be "unloaded," and the mere fact that that operation has to take place is bound to have a decided influence on prices.

Gemsah Oil Reefs.

In view of the moderate success that has so far attended the search for oil in Egypt, special interest attaches to the announcement by the Gemsah Oil Reefs, which will be found elsewhere, that the company has struck oil at a depth of 1,435 ft., and that the oil has a specific gravity of 0.845. In view of the high specific gravity, the company cabled to its field manager for confirmation, and the figures have duly been confirmed. Further news from the company will be awaited with considerable interest.

The Egyptian Cultivator.

An important step has recently been taken by the Egyptian Government in the interests of poor cultivators. The Government has arranged with the National Bank of Egypt for the grant to them of financial assistance at the commencement of the cotton season. It is then that the cultivator feels the need of money most keenly, and it often means selling his crop at very low prices. Under the arrangement between the Government and the bank the cultivator will be in a position to derive full benefit from his crop.

COMMENTATOR.

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Stock and Share Markets.

MARKETS RATHER DULL.

An Unsettled Tendency.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

The markets have naturally not been unaffected by the developments in the political situation, and while the tone at the commencement yesterday was fairly steady, the appreciation of the differences between this country and its Allies led to a distinctly unsettled tendency. Prices, however, have not been greatly affected, and the fact that gilt-edged have made quite a firm showing adds point to my comment some time ago that adverse political developments no longer affect the markets to the extent that they did. A contributory cause of the relative firmness that has been in evidence is the belief that, despite the present divergence of the aims of the Allies, a way to agreement will be found which will enable a settlement of the confused Continental position. One can only hope that this will prove to be the case, for it would be futile not to recognise the fact that conditions in Germany are rapidly deteriorating, and when a currency depreciates, as the German mark has done, other unpleasant developments are distinctly possible.

Coming Loans.

Despite the prevailing conditions, there are a whole host of foreign loans on the tapis, and the fact that all and sundry turn to this country for accommodation demonstrates very plainly that whatever was the case when the war ended, London has fully regained its position as the premier financial mart. Possible loans include not a few for Near Eastern countries. The major part of the Greek loan authorised by the League of Nations is, it is understood, to be issued here, while there is, apparently, a possibility of a Turkish loan in the near future.

Gilt-edged Steady.

Gilt-edged have generally been steady. Consols are 58½, War Loan Fives are 101 7-16, the Conversion Loan is 79¾, while Fundings are 93⅛. Indian stocks have been fairly firm. The Seven per Cent. Loan is 120¾, the 5½ per Cent. Loan is 101¼, while the Three per Cent. Loan is 60.

The market in Foreign Government securities has been very dull on the political situation. French stocks are considerably lower. War Loan Fives are 25, while the Four per Cents. are 19¾. Italian Rentes are down to 18, while German Three per Cents. are 13s. Czecho-Slovak Eight per Cents. have been fairly steady, closing at 94. In Near Eastern securities Turkish Unified are lower at 18¾, while Greeks have developed weakness.

Industrials Dull.

A very dull tone has ruled in the Industrial group, and some irregularity of prices has developed, though, generally speaking, price movements have been very small, business having been on a most restricted scale.

Textiles have displayed a rather uncertain tendency. Coats are 68s. 6d., while Courtaulds are 61s. 9d. Tobaccos have been easy, with Bats at 101s. 3d., and Imperial Tobaccos at 69s. 9d. Iron and Steel shares have made a fairly firm showing. Armstrongs are 16s. 6d., Guest Keens are 40s. 6d., and Vickers are 12s. 9d.

There has not been much doing in Shipping securities. P. and O. Deferred are 307, Cunards are 18s. 9d., Furness Withys are 28s. x.d., while Khedivial Mails are 1⅜. Bank shares have been firm. Chartered of India are 19¾, National of India are 44¾, P. and O. Banks are 12⅜, while Imperial of Persias are 7.

Oils Lower.

During the past week Oil shares improved, but the developments in the political situation effectually put an end to the rise, and yesterday the market closed on a distinctly weak note.

Burmahs are 4½, Anglo-Persian Ord. are 3¼, Mexican Eagles are 20s. 1½d., Shell Transport are 3 9-32, while Lobitos are 5⅝. In the Egyptian group, Gemsah Oil Reefs have been very strong on the favourable announcement, which will be found elsewhere, and closed at 1, after being rather higher. Anglo-Egyptian B. are 1¼. In the Roumanian group, Phœnix are 31-32, Dacia Romanos are 25-32, Steaua Romanas are 8s., while Hamilton's Concessions are 1s. 6d.

Egyptians Firm.

Egyptian securities have been fairly firm. Aboukirs are 17s. 6d., Beheras are 7¼, Egyptian Markets are 22s. 3d., Egyptian Salt and Soda are 23s. 6d., Gharbieh Lands are 1⅝, Kassala Cotton are 13s., New Egyptians are 21s. 6d., Sidi Salems are 18s. 3d., and Union Foncieres are 1 15-16.

Rubbers Improving.

The rise in the price of the raw commodity has helped the Rubber market, and the shares have begun to display a much healthier appearance. The declaration of modest dividends by companies has also helped matters, suggesting, as it does, the revival of prosperity at no distant period. Certainly it may now be taken for granted that the industry has definitely turned the corner.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following report on the agricultural situation in India to the end of July:—

The monsoon was late everywhere except in Bengal. Rainfall, though irregularly distributed, was adequate, except in West Madras, Western Bengal, a portion of the United Provinces, Rajputana and Baluchistan. There is a dry zone in Upper Burma. In this tract, protracted drought since the latter half of June has afforded anxiety for cotton and sesamum. Some damage to crops has been caused by heavy rains and floods in parts of Madras, Bengal, Assam, and agricultural operations have been retarded in Central India. The area under jute in Bengal has increased by about 30 per cent., owing to the high prices obtained last year. The condition of standing crops is generally good, except in parts of the Circars in Madras and in the United Provinces. The supply of food grain is sufficient and prices are generally easy. Employment is available and the condition of the people is satisfactory. Cattle are doing well and the fodder supply is sufficient, except in Bombay, Hyderabad and parts of Rajputana. The agricultural situation is generally good. More rain is, however, needed in the majority of Provinces.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16–97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	260-270
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	415-430
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.31-25.34
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/32–1.4 1/16
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	99.55
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1,000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/32–1.4 1/16
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	810
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.57
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	82.15-82.20
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	156½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	107¼
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	505
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	322-328,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,220,000*

* Nominal.

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British Consular Reports.

VI.—YUGOSLAVIA.

(Concluded)

ZAGREB DISTRICT.

The following extracts are taken from the report for the district of Zagreb for 1922 of Mr. G. T. Maclean, H.M. Consul at Zagreb :—

Although in some quarters there exists a tendency to take a pessimistic view of the situation, it is probably true that fair progress was made during the period under review towards the revival of stable and satisfactory economic and commercial conditions in Yugoslavia. This district, however, like the rest of the country, is still suffering from a variety of ills, chief among which may be mentioned (*a*) Exchange troubles; (*b*) Disorganisation in railway transport; (*c*) Lack of trained civil servants of all ranks.

The congestion in the goods traffic still acts as a serious barrier to the revival of trade. Whatever be the reasons the fact remains that wagons loaded with merchandise remain for months held up on both sides of Zagreb owing to congestion of the sidings.

In a country where the vast majority of the population are engaged in agriculture, it is unavoidable that the bulk of the requirements in manufactured goods must be imported. A certain progress has been shown in local industry, but there is still much to be done before the country can be said to be on the way to combat the adverse trade balance. Practically half the total imports into Yugoslavia are represented by textile goods, the only local textile factories of any importance in the area under discussion being the cotton mills at Dugaresa and Trzic.

The difficulties with exchange, etc., are particularly to be regretted at the present moment, as owing to the increasing cost of production in Czecho-Slovakia and other neighbouring States, Great Britain is at last reaching a stage where competition in this market is possible. British goods, especially textiles, can now undercut Czech goods in this country, and I was recently informed that Italian cotton goods were quoted 10 per cent. higher, without counting cost of transport, than similar British goods delivered in Zagreb.

Given an improvement in the conditions described, and allowing for adequate exploitation of natural resources and exportation, so that importation could increase without undue danger to the trade balance, this country should prove of considerable interest to British exporters.

SKOPLJE DISTRICT.

The following extracts are taken from the report for the district of Skoplje by Mr. Bird, H.M. Vice-Consul there :—

Undoubted progress has been made in all branches of economic life during the current year. As regards commerce, there is a marked change from the old system of dependence on Salonika. A considerable number of firms are now in direct touch with the United Kingdom and the United States. There is also a tendency to specialise in definite branches; formerly merchants were inclined to dabble in countless branches of commercial activity, with the result that one could buy chocolate, boots and cotton in the same shop either wholesale or retail. There is also a greater tendency towards fixed prices due to the influence of merchants from Old Serbia. The local merchant has probably more commercial and financial sense than the Serbian merchant, though he is deficient in technical training. Local merchants still base their prices on the rate of sterling on the day of sale. With a rising exchange this has the effect of increasing considerably the cost of living, but merchants are hereby enabled to cover themselves, pay their debts and replenish their stocks in spite of the high rate of exchange. Under this system prices vary not only from day to day but from the morning to the afternoon.

Commerce has been hampered by the financial policy of the Government. . . . It is hoped that the greater freedom from restriction allowed by the present Government will have a good effect both on the rate of exchange and on trade generally. In the second place, commerce is hindered by the high cost and by the inefficiency of railway transport. Railways are badly needed in the interior. The state of the roads is bad and the cost of transport by road is excessive. The cost of transporting an oka of rice from Stip to Veles, a distance of little more than twenty miles, is two and a half dinars. It thus pays the merchant better to import rice from America; as a result, the production of rice in the Kocana district has fallen from 6,000,000 to 2,500,000 okas per annum.

High export duties have also been instrumental in losing trade. Live stock is a good case in point. The Government fixed the export duty on live stock at 100 dinars for animals under one hundred kilos in weight and at two hundred and fifty dinars for animals over one hundred kilos. The result was that the exporters to Malta underfed their animals in order to reduce their weight. In consequence of this, the animals arrived in Malta in a deplorable state and could not compete with live stock from the Argentine. Serbia's export trade in live stock is thus, at least momentarily, dead.

The harvest was disappointing this year, and the quantity produced fell far below expectations. It is hoped that next year, if weather conditions are favourable, there will be a large increase in the cereal yield. Metal ploughs are being used to a greater extent, and, as these will plough deeper, they will reach virgin soil. It is hoped also that colonisation will help agriculture. The system is not working quite as well as had been expected. The Dalmatian colonists cannot stand the severe winter, and many have left the settlements. The failure of the harvest also meant much hardship for the colonists, who are now very badly off. The Cossack colony on the Kossovo plain is said to be

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FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-: GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO HAVRE ST. MALO AND DIEPPE

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doing well. Successful pig and poultry farms have been started in the Kumanovo and Stip districts.

Opium has been cultivated, and owing to the high price obtainable—810 dinars per oka—producers have done well. The actual output was, however, considerably less than in former years, chiefly, it is thought, owing to the fact that the land is impoverished. The question of improving the quality of the land is being investigated by the Ministry of Agriculture. Cotton has been cultivated to a very small extent, as, owing to the cost and difficulty of transport, cultivation on a larger scale would not have been profitable.

As regards industry, there has been greater activity than in the two previous years. In Skoplje an electric flour mill has been started with a capital of 15,000,000 dinars, and it is noped that it will be able to maintain an average output of fifty metric tons a day. The mill hopes later to compete in foreign markets, but with present transport rates, this is clearly impossible—as the cost of transport is higher from Skoplje to Salonika than from America to Salonika. The Vardar Bank has opened a motor repair shop which promises well. A factory for making bricks, tiles, and drain pipes has also been started at Skoplje. At Mitrovitza a sawmill capable of an annual output of 60,000 cubic metres and employing up to six hundred men is now working. New mills have also been built at the following towns: Kumanovo, Bujanovatz, and Petch. At the latter town furniture is now being made.

There is great need for factories for the preparation of cotton, opium, rice, drying fish and meat and preserving fruits. With regard to mines, there is little evidence that the authorities intend to make any endeavour to exploit them for the present. In this respect capital, technical knowledge, and initiative are lacking. During the current year banks with small capitals have been opened at most of the larger towns in Southern Serbia, including Strumnitza, Ghilane, Veles, Ghevgheli, Stip and Kumanovo.

Labour is scarce and very dear, while skilled labour is practically unobtainable. Employers of skilled labour complain that as soon as a man is master of his trade, he sets up for himself and will no longer work in a subordinate position in a factory. Thus, although there is a factory in Skoplje for making doors, window frames, etc., most of those who have built houses this year have employed small carpenters or even masons to make their doors, etc., for them. Domestic servants are almost unobtainable. The Government Tobacco Monopoly absorbs many of this class, and it is considered less degrading to live on municipal and church charity than to work in a private house. A washerwoman or charwoman earns 30 dinars a day, she must be given three square meals a day, and her strength must be kept up at frequent intervals with Turkish coffee, raki and tobacco. In spite of these demands, which increase her real wages to something approaching the salary of a field officer, it is with the greatest difficulty that she is induced to work. Another factor in the labour problem in this district is the constant recurrence of national and religious holidays. It is not unusual for work to stop for three days in a week; and it is difficult to see how factories in this district can ever join in world competition if they must remain idle nearly half the year.

As regards the various methods employed by different countries to foster trade in this district, the comparison between British and German methods is still made to the disadvantage of the former. Whereas, it is alleged, the German merchant sends a representative to study the exact needs of the market, and produces an article exactly identical with that in general use, the British merchant endeavours to place on the market goods which are nearly but not quite what the population is accustomed to. The population, both town and country, is extremely conservative in its tastes, which accounts for the fact that some hundred Skoplje merchants visited the Liubliana Fair, as soon as it was known that they would find there the class of article they had imported from Austria before the war. Exchange conditions render it difficult, if not impossible, for merchants to turn to the United Kingdom for fresh openings. An article once introduced here is with difficulty ousted, as is shown by the fact that British cotton yarns and sewing cottons still enjoy a virtual monopoly here in spite of very keen Greek and Italian competition.

DALMATIA.

The following extracts are taken from the annual report on Dalmatia of Mr. Nicholas Peric, H.M. Consular Agent at Split:—

Every year the volume of business increases, especially at Split, Sibenik, and Dubrovnik. When inland transport improves, business will still further expand, as the whole of Western Bosnia and Herzegovina are buyers from the Dalmatian markets. It was expected that commerce during the year would be done on a sound basis, but owing to the great fluctuations in the exchange, many merchants, fearing further depreciation, bought large quantities of goods of every kind, mostly colonial, often borrowing the money with which to buy. The new regulations of September, 1922, controlling imports, the financial crisis, and the foreign loan made the dinar temporarily rise in value. Holders of large stocks, hoping for an improvement, began to sell their goods, but no buyers were found owing to a lack of cash. Large quantities of textile goods were imported from Czecho-Slovakia, colonial goods from Italy, and machinery from Germany.

A great improvement is shown in the shipping trade for the year. The coasting trade is extended as far as Corfu. Several lines serve Bari and Trieste. Even without the State subvention, the shipping companies gave a good return for the year. There has been an amalgamation of the four shipping companies: Dalmatia, Hungaro-Croat, Hrvatsko Drustvo u Senju, and the Plovitba at Punta under the name of Jadranska Plovidba Susak, with a paid-up capital of 12 million gold dinars, with 80 vessels for the coasting trade, the most important company of its kind in the Mediterranean Sea. New lines, Trieste and Bari, and Ancona and Bari are to be opened. During the last two months of 1922 several British ships took their cargo, consisting of cement, bauxite, dried plums, calcareous earth and timber, from Split, Sibenik and Gruz.

Dalmatia has only ten to twelve properly called local banks with Dalmatian capital, but a great number of branches of Croatian and Slovenian banks and three Italian banks. Banking business is well developed, especially in foreign exchange. Most of the banks are largely interested in the country's industries. Rates of interest are very high, and with the commissions amount to from 13 to 15 per cent. per annum.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Egypt.

Lift Bridges.—Tenders are invited by the Inspector of Irrigation, First Circle, Savoy House, Cairo, for the supply of lift bridges on the Bahr el Baqar drain at kilometres 26.100, 32.600, and 38. Approximate value, £E.4,000. Tenders are limited to contractors resident in Egypt, or to those who have duly accredited agents resident in Egypt, August 30.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative).

Motor Cycles.

An interesting little brochure on motor-cycles issued by the British Cycle and Motor Cycle Manufacturers and Traders Union which has just reached me serves to draw further attention to the ever-growing popularity of this means of locomotion. The motor-cycle has rapidly become the motor-car of the person of very moderate means. For reasons which are obvious, we, in this country, are never likely to see the extension of the use of motor-cars on anything like the scale that America has gone in for, a fact for which people who have to use the roads (already quite sufficiently difficult, especially in the larger centres) are profoundly thankful; but there is every reason to anticipate, as time goes on, a very great development of the use of motor-cycles. As cheaper machines are put on the market (and some very reasonably priced machines can be obtained at the present time) this movement will be accelerated, for the individual whose tastes incline to the "wheel" has the very obvious incentive that by the use of the motor-cycle he can do journeys much cheaper than by the railway, while in a very great number of cases, riding at a speed of not more than 20 miles per hour, he can actually arrive at his destination quicker than a train can take him. There is, further, of course, the priceless advantage that the route can be of his own choosing. He can do as he pleases, and diverge at intervals to explore places off the beaten track. The rapid growth of the pastime (though that is not quite the right term to apply to it) will give special interest to the coming motor-cycle show at Olympia in October, when the growth of the industry is sure to be marked by the exhibition of many new and interesting types of machines.

Question of Overseas Markets.

That there should be a good and growing market for motor-cycles in many regions of the Near East is beyond question. Of course, in a good many districts conditions are quite unfavourable for motor-cycling, for even if the mountainous nature of the terrain is not an insuperable handicap, the bad roads put motor-cycling out of the question. But drawbacks of this kind are absent in countries like Egypt and Palestine, where the roads are extremely good; in Palestine, indeed, some of the roads are as good as they are in this country. Provided economic conditions are favourable (which, unfortunately, is not yet the case), there would appear to be no reason why there should not be a considerable development of motor-cycling in the Near East, more especially with the advent of the cheap machine. Emphatically the market is one for motor-cycle manufacturers to keep in mind, and if they are wise they will take steps to meet potential requirements now.

The Indo-European Cable Achievement.

The story of the reconstruction of this line was told very fully in last week's issue, but I should like to add my testimony to the value of the achievement in bringing a line 3,800 miles in length (not 3,000, as it was made to appear by a printer's error) into operation again in the face of the numerous and serious difficulties that had to be faced. The work in the Caucasus was particularly difficult, though in saying that I do not wish for one moment to minimise the problems that arose in regard to other sections, and the company is justly entitled to the heartiest congratulations on the conclusion of this enterprise.

Electrically Heated Furnaces.

A new type of electrically heated furnace has recently been introduced on the market by a firm which specialises in the production of these furnaces designed to take commodities in bulk. The furnace is constructed with refractory bricks, dovetailing into one another, and on the visible face of the bricks are three grooves that carry the heating wires. The bricks at the top of the furnace are so fitted that they can be hung beneath girders. Boiler-plate casing surrounds the furnace, the space between the casing and the bricks being filled with insulating material. A temperature of 800 degrees Cent. can be reached in about half an hour.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

The board of the British Empire Exhibition, in their report for July, state that the progress of construction is receiving constant attention, as the exhibition is dated to open early in April. Some delays have been caused by the obligation of Dominions and Colonies to refer to their home executives on certain questions, but all are fully aware of the necessity for expediting the work. The financial position to the end of June shows that the actual expenditure to then was £1,240,106, as compared with an estimated expenditure of £1,443,481. All the space available for commercial and industrial exhibits in the Indian section has been allotted. There was an increase in applications for space in the Palace of Engineering and the Palace of Industry in July of over 49,850 sq. ft. The area reserved in the Palace of Industry for associations, etc., who are organising their respective sections, for which allotments are not yet issued pending completion of arrangements, amounts to approximately 21,450 sq. ft. In addition there are provisional applications in hand as follows:—Palace of Engineering, 16,817 sq. ft.; Palace of Industry, 7,250 sq. ft. This leaves a balance not applied for to date of the total floor space in both buildings of 45,361 sq. ft.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields for June was 4,456 barrels, being 3,100 from Yenanma field and 1,356 from Padaukpin field.

At the forthcoming All-Russian Agricultural Exhibition at Moscow, a number of leading Czecho-Slovak makers of agricultural machinery will be represented.

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THE MARKET FOR FLOUR IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The following extracts are taken from a report, based on an article in a French contemporary, on the market for flour in Constantinople by the Acting Commercial Secretary to the British High Commission :—

Before the war the consumption of flour in the city and suburbs of Constantinople amounted to approximately 1,800,000 sacks of 72 kilos annually, i.e., approximately 5,000 sacks per day. The proportion of foreign flour imported was, of course, dependent upon the quality and quantity of the wheat harvest in Turkey. As a general estimate it may be stated that the importance of foreign flour during a year of good harvests amounted to 40 per cent. of the total consumption, but in years of bad harvests it rose to 60 or even 80 per cent. The main supplies of wheat came from Russia, followed by Bulgaria, Roumania, France and Italy.

The following statistics show the importance of foreign wheat during a year of average harvests (in sacks of 73 kilos): Russia, 350,000; Bulgaria, 120,000; Roumania, 110,000; Marseilles, 100,000; Italy, 40,000; Hungary and other countries, 10,000 sacks of 10,100 kilos—730,000.

Since the Armistice, France, Roumania, Bulgaria and Italy have prohibited the exportation of flour, and Russia is no longer in a position to export. Large importations were received from America, which during the past four years has supplied Constantinople almost to the exclusion of all other countries. Since the application of the new tariffs, the importation of flour has considerably decreased. The import duty of 475 piastres per 100 kilos is almost prohibitive, whilst the duty on wheat is 150 piastres per 100 kilos. The result of the application of these duties was to give a much needed stimulus to the local milling industry, the majority of the mills having been hitherto obliged to close down. There has been a large demand for wheat, but Bulgaria and Roumania have been unable to maintain adequate supplies and large quantities are being received from America.

The following is a list of the local mills at present in working order, giving their capacity in sacks per 24 hours:—D'Aivanserai, 1,800; Pacha-Limani, 400-500; Kassim-Pacha, 600; Hasskeuy, 1,500; Kemer-Alti, 450; Kadi-Keuy, 120; Djibali, 800-1,000; Geuk-Sou, 200; Daridja, 450-500; Bechiktache, 100; Prinkipo, 700; Moumhané, 350-400; Balat, 400.

It will be seen that, assuming the average daily consumption of flour in Constantinople at 5,000-5,500 sacks, the output of the local mills is adequate to the needs of the town. In actual practice large quantities of flour are still imported, with a result that only a few of the local mills can be kept employed to their full capacity.

A great handicap to the encouragement of local production of wheat lies in the fact that the best American flour can be sold on the market, after payment of customs duties, at 1,050 piastres per sack of 63½ kilos, Australian at 730 piastres per sack of 68 kilos, whilst native flour, inferior in quality to imported flours, is sold at a loss at 1,010 piastres per 72 kilos. The result is, of course, that the local grower is discouraged from increasing his production and a strong demand has arisen for an increase in the import duties on imported flour in order that the local products may be able to compete.

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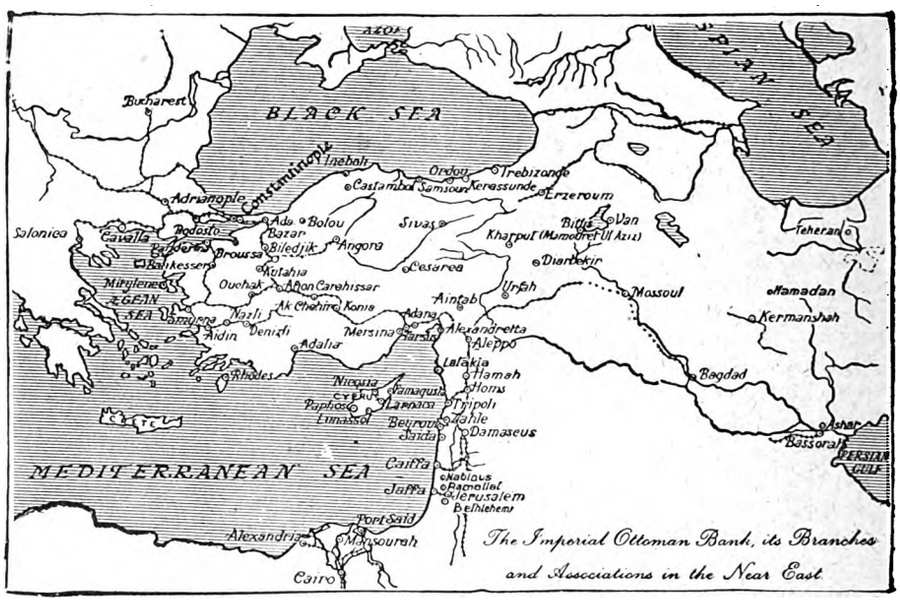

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cairo, August 2.

It is announced in this morning's newspapers that the Government has decided to enter the cotton market as a purchaser, with a view to causing a rise in prices by holding up supplies which would otherwise be placed on the market by growers in need of immediate cash. No official announcement of the Government's reported decision has yet been made, but there is every reason to suppose that the Press forecasts are accurate. The decision is surprising, seeing that both the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance had been thought to disbelieve in Government intervention as a cure for the present low price levels of Egyptian cotton. The Financial Adviser, Mr. Dowson, is strongly opposed to the course now adopted. It will be remembered that a similar policy was followed in 1921, when the Government bought extensively, and realised a substantial profit on its transactions. But on that occasion the Financial Adviser pointed out, in his annual report, that the realising of a profit instead of a loss had been due to nothing but good fortune, and that further experiments of the same kind were likely to have the opposite result. The Financial Adviser also emphasised the undesirability of using public money derived from general taxation for schemes designed to benefit only a small section of the inhabitants of the country. He furthermore demonstrated that the actual result in the way of price-raising of purchases on the comparatively small scale that any Government would care to sanction must be insignificant. The price of cotton would continue to be regulated, like the price of everything else, by the laws of supply and demand. The Government has resisted several recent attempts to rush it into taking the step which it has now sanctioned. But latterly there has been a sustained and vigorous offensive on the part of the big cotton growers to induce the Government to come in as a buyer.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Rather Active.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ended August 3, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather active, but at the close the undertone was again somewhat weak. To last week's dullness a series of active markets has succeeded, this being mainly due to the three following factors—(1) The rectification of the Egyptian stock in Liverpool, which from 88,000 bales has been brought down to 68,000 bales; (2) the announcement of the Bureau condition for July of the American crop at 67.2, a figure well below expectations; (3) the publication of a communiqué by the Council of Ministers, by which the Government announces its decision to intervene shortly in the market as a buyer. The market has been pushed up almost exclusively by speculative purchases, the trade taking practically no interest at all. Whether the above factors will have the effect of shaking the trade out of its present apathetic state is now to be seen. We are of the opinion that if this does not take place the advance secured might be lost as easily as it was gained. A rumour has been spread that it is the intention of the Government to buy solely Sakellaridis cotton, and that had the effect of making the difference between November Sakellaridis and October Ashmouni widen to $4.45, against $3.98 a week ago. The communiqué of the Government is drawn up in rather vague terms, and we should prefer to wait for something more concrete to happen before we express an opinion on the consequences of the decision taken. The decrease of the Egyptian stock in Liverpool has so far had but little effect on the prices there, and the parity between Alexandria and Liverpool has been maintained almost unchanged; however, we think that with imports in Liverpool decreasing considerably during the next two months dearer prices in Liverpool should be witnessed in the near future. This week's receipts amounted to 3,523 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,633,875 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 79,021 krs., and the stock now stands at 1,020,034 krs. against 1,095,532 krs. a week ago and 1,650,501 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—Minet-el-Bassal continues very quiet, and no improvement in the demand from abroad is to be noticed. Sales amount to about 2,700 bales, of which we estimate 1,900 bales Sakellaridis and 800 bales Uppers, with a few bales of outside growths. Holders show no disposition to force sales, and have been encouraged by the bullish Bureau report from Washington and the announcement that the Egyptian Government intend to intervene as buyers in the Cotton market.

Sakellaridis.—All grades have been dealt in, but the lower grades have been less in demand, presumably as they are so dear. Prices for spot against contracts are about at last week's rates.

Uppers.—The bulk of the business has been in the better grades, and the lower grades have been somewhat neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are generally appreciably dearer than last week, except the low grades, which are without much change.

Brown and White.—Are neglected, and only a few bales have been done. Quotations of spot are generally dearer for brown and without much change for white.

The Crop Position.

Crop 1923.—There is again very little to report. The pink bollworm has made its appearance all over the Delta, but it is yet too early to express any opinion on the probable damage the crop will ultimately suffer through this pest. News from Upper Egypt is very satisfactory in every respect. Picking in the extra early sown fields will commence in about a fortnight.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for the month of July reads as follows:—

Lower Egypt.—With the exception of some foggy mornings the temperature during July was favourable to the crop. With regard to Sakellaridis, the plants have in general a good appearance, but the crop is from 10 to 15 days behindhand; flowering is irregular; the branches carry less flowers and bolls than in previous years. As to the other varieties, the plants are vigorous and in a forward condition. Flowering is satisfactory; flowers and bolls of the first crop are abundant. On the whole, leaf worm has not caused any damage. Pink bollworm has been observed everywhere; the number of bolls attacked varying from 5 to 15 per cent., according to the district.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum. The temperature has been favourable to the cotton plants, and their appearance is satisfactory. Flowering has taken place under favourable conditions. The plants bear as many flowers and bolls as last year. In certain districts some bolls attacked by the pink bollworm have been observed, but the damage done is insignificant. Water for irrigation all over Egypt has been abundant.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended July 20, amounted to £E6,912.

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LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Moderate Demand.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 8:—

Only a moderate demand has been experienced during the past week, buyers apparently only taking cotton when absolutely forced to do so. The general tendency of the trade at the moment is to wait developments, the majority of spinners expressing the belief that the recent appreciation is not warranted, their views being based mainly on the rather poor prices and offtake for yarns experienced recently in Manchester. Probably, should the present level be maintained, we should find manufacturers encouraged to operate more fully. The daily sales have averaged about 500 bales, Sakel cotton, grading round fully good fair, monopolising as hitherto the greater portion of the business. Uppers have been rather a quiet market, and, generally speaking, holders have been ready to trade at something below the official quotations. The Sudan varieties have only been asked for occasionally, and the resultant business has been very small. White cottons and Affifi have not been mentioned, but there is only a very small stock of these cottons offering here now. The spot sales total 1,800 bales (for four days), against 3,800 (including 300 Sudan) last week. Quotations of uppers and brown are advanced 55 points all round and all grades of Sakels 85 points. Fully good fair Sakel to-day 16.20d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business Very Restricted.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 11 states:—

This market has again been disturbed by a sudden fluctuation in the raw material, the price of American "spot" on Tuesday last being advanced 115 points. The rise has been very detrimental to even the limited amount of negotiation which had been entered into, since merchants, even under more favourable conditions than exist to-day, act with great caution when the raw cotton market is in a state of flux. Inquiry is said to have been on a somewhat larger scale, but the old story has to be repeated that much of it is quite unworkable, and the amount which actually finds its way into the order book is unsatisfactory in the extreme.

Yarn.—Only a poor week has been experienced. Quotations are naturally very irregular, owing to the recent ups and downs in the price of raw cotton. Prices generally may be said to be ¼d. to ½d. per lb. above those of a week ago.

Cloth.—Here also the prices quoted vary considerably for similar articles. Sales effected are mostly for small lots from stock, few merchants being disposed or able to place contracts of any weight for future delivery. A little more business has been transacted for Turkey and the Levant generally, but the principal markets—viz., India and China—continue very quiet.

Raw Cotton.—The reports from America regarding the weather conditions have been only moderate, and whilst at the moment there appears to be an indication of a short crop, this market declines to be stampeded into any precipitate action in the belief of a shortage at the end of July next year. Closing prices are as follows:—American, fully middling, 14.72; Egyptian, fully good fair, 16.05

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

New Ellerman Steamer.

The launch has recently taken place from the Wallsend yard of Messrs. Swan, Hunter, and Wigham Richardson, Ltd., of the Lesbian, which has been built for the Ellerman Lines, Ltd. The Lesbian, which has a cruiser-shaped stern, and whose dimensions are 271 ft. 4 in. by 41 ft. 6 in. by 23 ft. 9 in. forward and 22 ft. aft, is a single-screw steamer, and has been built to the highest class of Lloyd's. She has three cargo holds, and is constructed to carry 3,425 tons. Lighting is by electricity throughout. The engines are of the inverted marine type.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 25).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 1); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Rangoon (London, August 23); s.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, August 29).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 31); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 14).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Branksome Hall for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 18).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Yokohama (Birkenhead, August 22).

Ellerman, Bucknall, and Strick Lines.—S.s. Trewidden for Persian Gulf (Manchester, August 23).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, August 22).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 25).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Maronian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, August 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Delta for Bombay (London, August 24); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8).

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN YUGOSLAVIA.

H.M. Representative at Belgrade has forwarded a translation of Article 48 of the draft Law concerning the acquisition by foreign nationals of immovable property in Yugoslavia. The article in question is as follows:—"The purchase by citizens of foreign countries of any real estate lying in the territory of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes within 50 kilometres of its frontier or of the sea coast must be sanctioned by the Minister of War and Marine and the Minister of the Interior. Without such preliminary sanction the courts will not transfer properties to the buyer."

Forty-seven students from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Edinburgh, who are training as future inspectors of forests in India, are visiting the forests in the Canton of Freiburg, Switzerland.

SULZER BROTHERS, ALEXANDRIA.

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AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY IN GREECE

The total number of tractors in use in Greece is estimated to be about 400, of which one-half are of American make, 100 of German origin, 50 from the United Kingdom, and the balance from various other countries (says an American Consular report). Imports during 1922 were adversely affected by the high rates of exchange, which not only increased the cost of the tractor to the Greek user, but also increased the cost of fuel.. Crude oil is now being used as a fuel by one English and one German type of tractor.

The small tractor of about 12 horse-power, pulling two ploughs, offers the greatest possibilities for sale in Greece, owing to the limited size of the average farm, which will be still further reduced when the plan of dividing the property of the large landholders among the tenants has been carried out. This, however, will apply only to those landholders who lease the ground to tenant cultivators and receive a part of the crop as compensation. Owners of large estates, who take an active interest in the cultivation of their lands and manage them, will not be affected by this division, and this class offers a promising field for tractors and tractor equipment. Most of the properties to be divided are situated in the north of Greece, in Thessaly and Macedonia, which are the principal agricultural regions, and where expropriation has already begun. It is expected that the tenants who now become proprietors will take an increased interest in the intense cultivation of the soil and in course of time will be able to purchase modern agricultural implements.

Germany, since its return to the Greek market, has taken away the threshing trade from the United States. Although the price of the American machine is lower than the German 54-inch thresher, which is at present offered at $3,000, the straw bruiser supplied with the German machine is claimed to be superior to the American design, causing less breakage of the grain. Steam engines are preferred for driving threshers, as the straw can be used as fuel. Harvesting machines and binders come mostly from the United States. Ploughs are manufactured by two factories in Vole, and in addition to this, the Greek Government has contracted for 20,000 ploughs in Germany on account of reparations.

Increased importations of agricultural implements into Greece depend on the stability of the exchange level much more than on its high rate. The farmers are comparatively prosperous and actively supported by the co-operative societies existing throughout Greece and by the National Bank of Greece, which grants short-term credits both to individual farmers and to co-operative societies. These funds are used for financing the sowing, harvesting and marketing of the crops. The introduction of agricultural implements through the medium of the co-operative societies has not made much progress.

EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in July:—

Cotton.—In Lower Egypt the weather conditions were such as to tend to produce more vegetative growth of the plants rather than the boll-formation. This was especially marked in Sakellaridis. In Middle and Upper Egypt the condition of the crop is fairly satisfactory, having slightly improved in certain provinces since last month. Complaints of shortage of water, owing to irrigation of sharâqi lands, were received from a very few localities situated at tail ends of canals. The attacks of cotton worm were mild. Pink boll worm attacks are reported from all districts, but it is too early to forecast the probable degree of the attack. Slight attacks of wilt have also been reported.

Millet (Sêfi).—In Lower Egypt cobs are forming in early-sown fields. In Middle and Upper Egypt the crop is approaching maturity. Harvesting is expected to begin early in August.

Rice (Sêfi).—The weather and water supply are satisfactory. The crop is growing satisfactorily, and promises a normal yield.

Sugar-cane.—The condition of the plants is satisfactory. Watering, manuring, and hoeing were being carried out. The crop is free from pests and disease, except in Minya Province, where a slight attack of stalk-borer has been reported. A normal yield is expected.

Bersim.—Harvesting has been completed. Thrashing and winnowing are general. The yield is below average.

Earthnuts.—The growth of this crop is proceeding normally.

Maize (Nili).—Preparation of land, manuring, and sowing are in progress. Sowing started earlier this year. Where it has already taken place, germination is normal.

The Greek Moratorium Law has been further extended to September 30, and Articles 1 to 6 of the Law to October 31.

THE LATE MR. C. E. MUSGRAVE.

City Memorial Service.

A memorial service for the late Mr. C. E. Musgrave, secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce, was held on August 8, at the Church of St. Swithin, London Stone. The officiating clergy were the rector, the Rev. W. J. Foxell, and the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, and the choir was composed of members of the Chamber of Commerce staff. Among those present were:—

Lord Desborough, Lord Farrer, Lord Southwark, Alderman Sir John Knill (Acting Lord Mayor), Sir John A. Cockburn, Sir Roper Parkington, Sir John Hewett, Sir George Truscott, Sir J. Fortescue Flannery, Sir Edmund Bartley-Denniss, K.C., Sir William Purchase, Mr. Stanley Machin, Mr. C. E. Town, Mr. Howard Ruff, Mr. H. T. McAuliffe, Mr. Edward Wilshaw, Mr. Lee (assistant secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce), Mr. G. H. Wright, Mr. T. C. Walton (Department of Overseas Trade), Mr. Pollard (Home and Foreign Produce Exchange), Mr. Hedley Miller (British Imperial Council of Commerce), Mr. J. Paynter, Mr. J. H. Batty, Mr. A. Aspinall, and Mr. R. B. Dunwoody.

The funeral took place subsequently at Richmond Cemetery.

NEW COMPANIES.

British Ukrainian Produce.

The British Ukrainian Produce Company, Limited, has been registered as a private company, with a capital of £20,500 (10,000 1s. management shares and 20,000 £1 ordinary shares). The objects are to carry on the business of importers of eggs and other produce, etc., from Russia, as formerly carried on by the vendors at 109, Tooley Street, S.E.

Armstrong Whitworth (Yugoslavia).

Armstrong Whitworth (Yugoslavia), Limited, has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £6,000 to carry on the business of engineering in all its branches.

West African Bank Nominees.

The West African Bank Nominees, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £100 in £1 shares. Objects: To carry on the business as indicated by the title. The first directors are to be appointed by the subscribers. The office of a director shall be vacated if he shall cease to be a director or employee of the Bank of British West Africa, Ltd. Registered office at 37, Gracechurch Street, E.C.

OIL NEWS.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate for July was 700 tons.

The production of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended August 3 was Gemsah, 7 tons; Hurghada, 3.406.

Production of crude oil by the British Burmah Petroleum Company and the Rangoon Oil Co., Ltd., for July amounted to 63,857 barrels.

Steaua Romana (British) are advised that the approximate fields' gross production of the Steaua Romana Company (Bucharest) for July was 17,850 tons.

The following cable has been received by the Cyprus Oil Trust, Ltd., from Trinidad: "Depth of well 1,720 ft., 12-in. casing set at 1,090, 8-in. casing set at 1,560 ft.; now withdrawing 6-in. casing from 1,720 after very satisfactory tests of oil sands at 1,640 to 1,680. Oil is rising in the casing. Well clearing itself."

The Gemsah Oil Reefs has received the following cable from its field manager:—"Good show oil and gas 1,435 ft. Specific gravity .845. No trace of water. Shipping samples to you." A cablegram was sent to the field manager for confirmation, as the specific gravity is so favourable, and cable advices have been received confirming the figures.

Reports from the Algerian property, in which the Algerian Oilfields is so largely interested, state that the production for the months of June and July was 105 tons and 111 tons respectively. Well No. 30 has now reached a depth of 271 metres; well No 31 178 metres. Well No. 22 being deepened. Well No. 27 has now been cemented and closed down. A new well, No. 32, has been started in close proximity and had reached 39 metres on July 31.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 641—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Angora Assembly.

The early efforts of the Angora Assembly must not be judged by too high a standard. Things in Turkey are necessarily in a transition stage, and it is in the interests of the world in general that the country should progress along Western lines rather than sink back into chaos. By all means let the Turks be encouraged to aim at a high standard; but there is no need to gird at them because at the beginning they fall short of it. They have given Europe a striking example of what can be achieved by national unity and stedfastness of purpose, and it will be to their advantage if they can appreciate the value of these assets and apply them to their new needs. At present there would seem to be a danger of unity being reduced to the absurdity of a Legislative Assembly without an Opposition. This can never be a natural state of affairs, and can be attained only by some form of terrorism, which at Angora is being exercised through legislative enactments, passed by constitutional machinery, but entirely contrary to the spirit of personal liberty that must form the basis of any progressive State. The members of the Assembly are very new to their work. If, as is stated, 185 out of 217 are soldiers, and all are of one party, there need be no surprise that they are inclined to ignore the boundary line between discipline and sycophancy during the first few weeks. The position at Angora will become tragic only when Mustapha Kemal Pasha allows the flattery of his followers to set the standard of Turkish statesmanship.

Politics in Greece.

Until the general election takes place it is not easy to form a clear opinion of the trend of Greek politics at the present time. M. Zaimis, to whom the country has of recent years accustomed itself to look for temporary relief from political tangles, has refused to take charge of a Coalition Government under the auspices of the Revolutionary Committee, but he has informed the latter that he is forming a new party, to be called the "Reconciliation Party." The title, if not the party, we may hope, will prove of an ephemeral nature; but the foundation on which M. Zaimis proposes to build is not only thoroughly sound, but is also the only one on which Greece can expect to raise a new and lasting edifice of prosperity. There is a healthy frankness in the statement in which M. Zaimis has propounded his views. He points out that the task of the Revolutionary Committee was finished with the demobilisation of the Army, but he is prepared to admit the necessity of their presence in view of the irreconcilable attitude of the Royalists. At the same time he holds the extreme Venizelists responsible for calamities almost as serious as those caused by the Royalists, and he calls upon the Venizelists to abstain as a party from the election and to support candidates of the Reconciliation Party. M. Zaimis is generally believed to be above the reproach of seeking his own interests, and for this reason it may be hoped that his advice will be followed. If his appeal is endorsed by M. Venizelos, there can be little doubt that it will be responded to by the majority of the Venizelists. The Royalists look to General Metaxas, who has also inspired confidence by his refusal to be stampeded into extremism. In the face of a working agreement between General Metaxas and M. Zaimis, the Revolutionary Committee would have no other course open to it than to dissolve itself. The next step in Greek political history should be the scrapping of the names of parties that recall political animosities and the adoption of a nomenclature that would bear some reference to principles or policies.

Great Britain and Cyprus.

The presence in England of M. Spiro Araouso, who came to present a further petition on behalf of Cypriot Greeks for the union of the island with Greece, has afforded the British Government an opportunity for a fresh pronouncement on the future of Cyprus. The demand for union with Greece is again rejected, and it is added that this question must now be considered as closed. The Secretary of State for the Colonies, however, expresses his willingness to consider favourably an increase of Greek representation in the Legislative Assembly in proportion to the population, on condition that an equal increase in the British membership of the Assembly should also be

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effected. In regard to what is known as the Turkish tribute, but which, in reality, is the payment of a sum of £42,000 annually to shareholders of Turkey's Crimean Loan, the British Government holds that this payment must continue.

The Future of Cyprus.

It is to be hoped, although it is hardly to be expected, that this plain answer to a plain request will put an end at least for a period to the agitation among a number of Greeks in Cyprus for union with Greece. The position of the island, it has to be admitted, presents certain anomalies, and few people will rule it as altogether out of the question that Cyprus should one day be Greek. It has, however, never been united with Greece, and, although, in view of the prominence given of recent years to the cult of nationality, there is an obvious affinity between Cyprus and Greece, at no period in the history of the two would union have proved a greater disservice to both. No weakening in one's belief in the future of Hellenism is entailed by the admission that Greece has on the mainland far too much to engage her attention and to tax her resources at the present moment to make it desirable that she should have Cyprus as an added responsibility, reopening through the Turkish minority on the island a chapter in her relations with Turkey only recently closed. Cyprus, moreover, has been handicapped in the past by having received inadequate attention from the British Government, and it would be fatal to her interests to be handed over at this juncture to a country that has not sufficient money for its own needs. So long as the present agitation for union with Greece lasts there will be a natural reluctance on the part of Great Britain to develop the island for the benefit of people who show themselves incapable of appreciating the British régime. The lack of political intelligence displayed by the agitators for union with Greece, who have persisted in a campaign which has been discountenanced by M. Venizelos and other enlightened Greeks, also acts as a deterrent to any scheme for giving a greater measure of self-government. Great Britain considers herself a trustee not only of the Turkish minority in Cyprus, but also of the thousands of Greeks whose real interests are little likely to be advanced by the townsmen, who, in supporting the agitation, do not overlook the fact that union should bring with it the spoils of office.

M. Raditch.

The mystery of the conflicting statements concerning the whereabouts of M. Raditch, the leader of the Croats in Yugoslavia, who has been variously reported as being in Hungary, in Austria, and still in Croatia, has been cleared up by his arrival in London. As M. Raditch left Yugoslavia clandestinely, it must be supposed that he considered it wiser not to await the decision of the Committee appointed to determine whether his Parliamentary immunity should be raised in order that he might stand his trial on various charges. In these circumstances he will hardly expect to derive much benefit from his visit to England. Public opinion in this country as far as it is interested in Yugoslav politics has been inclined to sympathise with the movement for a less severely centralised system of government in Yugoslavia than that provided for by the existing Constitution. On the other hand, it has no Republican leanings, nor has it much patience with the *non possumus* attitude in politics which prefers to cry, in rather exaggerated language, for the moon and refuses to listen to any proposals for compromise. Accordingly the chief interest attaching to M. Raditch's visit would seem to centre in its ultimate effect on Yugoslav politics. His own followers will have to decide whether their cause is helped or weakened by his absence. Possibly they may be encouraged to hope that M. Raditch will somehow or other strengthen his position in Yugoslavia by initiating personal relations with the British Government; but on this point they can entirely disabuse their minds. Great Britain has no desire to interfere in Yugoslavia's domestic politics; it is to her interest that the country should compose its political differences by itself, and then, having attained a real unity, enter upon an era of economic progress.

The Arabs of Palestine.

It is to be hoped that the Palestine Arab Delegation, which has once more come to London, will not do harm to the Arab cause by mistaken tactics. British policy in Palestine has been at fault through want of thought and not through want of heart. The policy has now been revised, and rests on the satisfactory basis of common sense and disinterestedness. There can be no better foundation for the government of a mixed community, and British plans are not likely to be thwarted by *ex parte* pleadings. The Arabs are offered a share in the administration of the country, which will be increased as they give evidence of their administrative capacity. If they refuse to play their part, the administration of the country will be carried on without their help, and the conditions that they deplore will be continued for a longer period owing to their wrong-headedness. Adoption of the policy advocated by the Palestine Arab delegation is to-day out of the question in view of Great Britain's commitments. The British Government has offered a scheme which represents in all the circumstances a fair first stepping-stone towards the National Government for which the Arabs are asking. If the Arabs will help to make a success of this first stage, they will bring the country appreciably nearer the goal in view. Everyone in this country knows that the Arabs form over 90 per cent. of the population in Palestine; but no one is impressed by a delegation which would wish it to be supposed that its claims represent the matured political convictions of every Arab or even of a majority of them. The delegation's case is vitiated by the fact that, whereas many of the Arab rank and file for whom they profess to speak can and do get on with the Jews in their midst, the essence of the leaders' agitation is that no attempt should be made by the Arabs to see whether they cannot pull together with the Jews in a common and sustained effort to promote the interests of the country under the British Mandate. In the course of such an effort there will be abundant opportunity to improve the administration in detail in the light of actual experience.

Indian Constitutional Difficulties.

Now that the talk of a constitutional "crisis" over the salt tax seems almost to have died down in India, it may be worth while to point out that the real crisis, when it comes, is likely to arise in connection with provincial rather than central business. The experimental, and therefore dubious, portions of the Constitution are those which govern the internal working of the provincial administrations, and their relations with the authorities at headquarters. Some experienced critics have been watching to see one or other of the diarchies fly suddenly into pieces as the result of internal strains, while others fear rather that the powers of the Government of India may be so used as to drive one or other of the provinces into revolt, not, of course, armed resistance, but

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an attitude of definite political hostility. That the first result has not yet occurred is a fact for which the credit must be given to the men who have been working the cumbrous machine, and, most of all, to the exceptionally able Governors of the various provinces. The second danger has now come sufficiently near to call for some notice, though it has not yet materialised. As most of us feared would be the case, the subject involved is religion, and, as most of us expected, the protagonist is Madras.

Religious Endowments in Madras.

The Madras Legislature, which, by the way, consists predominantly of Hindus, has accepted a measure dealing rather drastically with a very thorny subject, the supervision of religious endowments. The Bill falls into a class to which assent must be given by the Viceroy, not the provincial Governor, and conservative Hinduism all over India has now united to bring pressure to bear on Lord Reading to use his veto, on the ground that "religion itself is in danger," as one advocate of interference has hardily asserted. The Viceroy, who apparently cannot share the responsibility for the decision with his Council, is wisely taking his time. He is bound by law to protect religious liberty. If he decides that the Bill infringes this principle, he must withstand the provincial legislature, which is understood to have Lord Willingdon's Government at its back, while if he assents to the Bill, he will probably antagonise those reserve forces of orthodoxy which are very slow to move, but which, when once they are loosed, are still by far the strongest thing in India. Hitherto they have successfully resisted every attempt to secure effective secular control over the huge mass of property consecrated to religious uses. They are not usually inclined to compromise; and, whatever the Viceroy's decision may be, its results are likely to be of great importance for the whole of India.

The Services in India.

A useful, if unpretentious, contribution to the discussion of the great Service question in India has reached us from the Association of European Government Servants at Naini Tal, in the form of a pamphlet setting out some typical family budgets for middle-aged officers. We are not, of course, in a position to pronounce a definite judgment on the actual figures presented, but we can detect no serious exaggeration, and we are not prepared to dissent from the conclusion drawn, that a married officer with a small family cannot possibly live decently on his pay, even in what used to be regarded as the cheapest part of India. If he has no private means, he must either run into debt, or cheat his children of a decent education. Is it any wonder that officers in this position are critical over the action of the India Office in the whole matter? If it takes eleven months to bring a Royal Commission into existence, how many months will it take before its recommendations have received effect? And how many officers will break down in the meantime? Such are the questions that are being asked all over India just now.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Arrest of De Valera.

It came almost as a relief to find one's interest shifting in the last week from Europe to Ireland. Day by day we look to find something happening about the Ruhr, and nothing ever does happen; so that when we read that Mr. de Valera had been arrested the news, not of much significance itself perhaps, seemed, by comparison with negative Continental action, quite exciting. Mr. de Valera has always been a rather imponderable figure, and the most intelligent have found it difficult accurately to "place" him. Of his ability there is no doubt, but apparently the Cosgrave Government thought the time had come when it could safely run the risk of raising him to a martyr's fate. It is said that his arrest will gain votes for the Government, but firm action in Ireland does not always have the same results as elsewhere, and the only safe thing is to be dull and wait and see.

Whatever hold de Valera still has in his own country—I mean Ireland—it is fairly certain that America now has little use for him. Irish-Americans have not exactly approved of the way in which their thousands have been squandered in a losing cause, and though, of course, there are hundreds of irreconcilables among them, they are suspicious and tired of this particular barren intellectual.

The Entente.

To read the newspapers, one would imagine that the Entente is in hourly danger of extinction, but such can scarcely be the case when our Ministers at such a time as this can go abroad on holidays. The reply of the French and Belgian Governments to the British Note is to be published to-morrow, and, whatever may be its effect on public opinion, obviously it can make no immediate difference to the situation. England, it would seem, is now beginning to recognise that she cannot further weaken France's position in the Ruhr, for all this talk about getting paid our debts from France is at the moment merely talk; and the only "separate action" of which we are capable is disapprovingly to recognise that France has indulged in "separate action."

But for the time being the holiday spirit is on us, and we are Little Englanders till about September, after which we promise to come to our senses again, hoping that the Entente still exists. It is not astonishing, this fatigue of British people with European affairs: we never did well understand them, and the fact, indisputable as it may be, that we are a Continental Power, will take time to sift into the minds of our people.

The explanation of the present dallying may be in the fact that our Premier wishes to consult the Imperial Conference on the whole question of Reparations, and then, having got something like unanimity in the matter, to throw the whole weight of the British Empire into the question. I have no particular reason to believe that a verdict by our colonial representatives would be adverse to France. but should it so turn out I doubt—though it may be heresy to say so—even then whether the scale would be weighted against the present occupants of the Ruhr. Had we acted months ago the result would have been very different.

The Dockers' Strike.

The strike of the dock workers at the London docks is finally at an end. Now what it is that has kept men from their occupation all this time is more than a mystery. At first a huge cry went up that the strikers were being dole-fed. but, to judge by the way in which that cry has

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died down, it seems to have been a barren explanation. People of the *Morning Post* type say angry words about intimidation, unauthorised leaders, Bolshevism, and so on, but the public's ears are mostly shut to that sort of thing.

The workers are now claiming an official inquiry into their grievances, particularly over the accuracy of the index figure as reflecting the actual cost of living in the East End of London. Although the riverside population of London is not the most respectful of the majesty of the law, yet it might perhaps be no bad thing were the official estimate of the cost of living revised, or at least remade.

The Theatres.

If there is one class of men over whom appeals for sympathy are more frequently put out and less genuine feeling expressed it is that of theatre-managers. Every summer and autumn we hear the usual bleat that theatres are run at a loss, and yet we listen unmoved to the stories of the certain ruin of managers. We know so well these generous souls, whose sole object in squandering their moneys is the provision of public enjoyment.

But, joking apart, the recent crop of plays has not been very "successful," and revivals are being freely indulged in. Already five revivals are being acted, and this week we are to have Chesterton's "Magic" and Anthony Hope's "Prisoner of Zenda." Chesterton's brilliant piece is to be played at the Everyman, where there is, I should think, a very good chance of its attaining something more than popularity.

After August we are, it appears, going to have an orgy of first nights. Most important of all we are to see, early in September, Flecker's "Hassan" at His Majesty's, with Mr. Henry Ainley as Hassan: and a little later is coming Mr. Somerset Maughan's "Our Betters." Altogether, it looks as though the forthcoming theatrical season may be even stimulating.

Seals and Fish.

Some visitors to the seaside get quite excited when they catch sight of seals, though, in fact, there are scores of them off most of the English coast. But this year they are particularly abundant off the North coast of Norfolk, so much so that they are driving away the fish from this part of the coast. They are, in fact, a plague, and the Eastern Fisheries, I believe, are offering £1 for a skin. It is by no means difficult to get close to them on sandbanks. I met a man the other day who shot seven in a few hours. Why they should be so plentiful this year I do not know, but certainly they are not liked by our fishermen, and, being only small ones, their skins are not of great value. But to the land-lubber they are fascinating fellows, and the way in which they contrive to make a wriggling fish descend into their throat is very fascinating.

Motor-Car Accidents.

An indignant wail of protest is being raised against the number of motor-car accidents now taking place on the roads. It may be fancy, but it certainly seems as though there were far more and worse drivers on the road than formerly; half-experienced, middle-aged men or young females, charmingly ignorant of mechanical repairs, abound nowadays. Yet it is said, authoritatively, that it is not from such classes of relatively incapables that accidents derive; it is rather from the "best" drivers, those, that is, whose temperament drives them either to speed or to drink, that disasters come. Carelessness and negligence, in short, are far more dangerous than ignorance; it is rather the man who cannot and will not stop than the man who can do nothing else who is the public nuisance. At present it is difficult to put the law on to reckless drivers, but something must be done about it.

The Occupation of England.

While we are speculating on the duration of the French occupation of the Ruhr, Professor Bury, of Cambridge, has been forming the conclusion that the hitherto accepted date of the end of the Roman occupation of Britain—410 A.D., is wrong. Every schoolboy—except those who are taught that English history begins in 1066—has been told that the Roman eagles left England for ever in 410: but this complacency is now upset by Professor Bury's putting the occupation as lasting thirty or forty years longer. That his evidence and conclusions will be accepted seems most probable; it is all part of the trend, which I mentioned a little time ago, to recognise and not to obscure our descent from the Romans. And it is really comforting, not merely to imagine, but to know, that the foundations of our greatness were laid in Roman processes—though the thought, with the mortality of Empire implied, need not be pressed too far!

Yet the stuff of the people of Britain has always been fine, and these islands were inhabited by a worthy race before the Romans and Normans came to make that race a people. Incidentally, we were a beautiful and artistic people. These attributes are generally denied to us, and we ourselves have certainly allowed them to become obscured—witness the amusement which Professor Walford Davies caused the other day when he said we were fundamentally artistic. But I should not be surprised if, after our industrial period, artistic inclinations reassert themselves in this people. I was recently given an ingenious ground for this belief by an artist who was maintaining that the ancient Greeks were not, as is commonly supposed, a beautiful people, but an ugly, squat race. Briefly his argument was this: It is common for mankind to desire, to dream of, and finally to deify what they have not; and the beautiful statues of Greek sculpture (this was the result of long archæological research on his part at Athens) were not representatives of Greek citizens, but of slaves from Britain, whom the Greek artists, themselves unpossessed of beautiful form, were quick to recognise as perfectly shaped. There is hope for our Olympic Games runners after all!

The Cricket Season.

Although there are several very interesting matches yet to be played, the fact that the issue of the county championship is now practically settled has made the newspaper student of cricket a little less furious than he should be at the intrusion of football news in the paper in August. Yorkshire, there can be little doubt, will be champions, and indisputably they have proved the hardest side this year to beat. They may not be the most attractive—Sutcliffe is the only man in the side with any of the graces of the South—but they have built up an almost infallible and certainly admirable efficiency. In balance they are far beyond any other team now playing, and their position at the head is in spite of all the anomalies and injustices of the present system of scoring points.

On the whole, it has been a very interesting season, marked chiefly, perhaps, by a revival in amateur batting. The professionals' batting honours are at the moment shared between Hendren and Mead, with the more versatile at the head, while the season's "discovery" has been Tate, the son of the old Sussex cricketer who once played for England.

Alter Ego.

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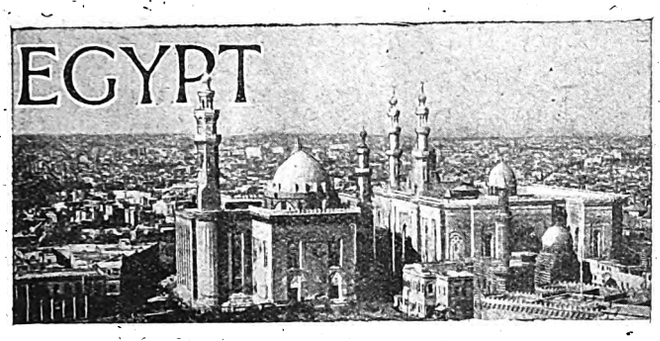
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 9.

The Elections Postponed.

The initial stage of Egypt's first parliamentary elections, namely the appointment of elector delegates, which was to have taken place on the 22nd of this month, has been postponed until September 10. It has been found by the inspectors appointed by the Ministry of the Interior to examine the electoral lists that these rolls are full of inaccuracies and omissions. The trouble has apparently arisen through the local authorities' inability to comprehend the circulars issued by the Ministry at the time of the compilation of the lists. But, even had the official instructions been entirely understandable and the local officials never so intelligent and painstaking, a fairly large number of errors could only be expected on this, the first occasion that any rolls of the kind have been compiled in Egypt. From what I hear the new date fixed for the voting for the elector delegates will scarcely allow sufficient time for the rectification and, in some cases, completely new compilation of the lists, and it is probable that the elections will not take place before October.

The system to be followed in appointing the elector delegates is that each group of thirty voters will elect from their number a delegate. Voters will be divided up into groups of thirty by the local authorities, who, in making the division, will be guided by considerations of the places of residence of voters, and will endeavour to secure that each group shall consist of neighbours. The actual election of deputies will be effected by the votes of the elector delegates. Delegates, to be eligible to stand for election, must have been nominated by at least thirty elector delegates of the constituency for which the candidature is proposed. For the election of senators there is a second elector delegate stage, the elector delegates appointed to vote in respect of candidates for the Chamber of Deputies being themselves divided up into groups of five, and each group electing a delegate to vote in the senatorial elections.

It is obvious that, with such a plan, an election campaign in this country must differ greatly from the tussle in the constituencies which precedes a General Election at home. In the first place, candidates cannot be nominated until after the elector delegates have been selected by the voters. Partly for this reason, and partly, no doubt, on account of the unfamiliarity of the local political parties with electioneering procedure, there is as yet very little sign of the impending struggle. Each of the three parties, the Zaghlulists, the Constitutional Liberals, and the Nationalists, declares that it will fight every constituency; but it is very doubtful whether this programme will be realised. In the case of the Nationalists, it is almost certain that the party will not waste its energies in fighting all the very many seats where there is not the remotest chance of success. The same consideration must apply, to some extent, to the Constitutional Liberals, and even, though in vastly less degree, to the Zaghlulists. There is at present no provision in the Egyptian electoral law for the forfeiture, by a candidate who has polled only a minute fraction of the votes registered, of any part of the sum deposited by him on his nomination. If the parties adhere to their presently declared intention of contesting every constituency, it is likely that an early enactment of the Egyptian Parliament would be aimed at penalising frivolous candidatures financially.

The Parties' Programmes.

While it is inevitable that the political groups should have been unable hitherto to draw up lists of their candidates, it is more surprising that they have not attracted greater public attention to their various programmes. Two of the parties, the Liberal Constitutionals and the Nationalists, have quite definite programmes, which have been re-enunciated fairly recently, and which the party leaders have stated to be the principles on which the parties' candidates will be recommended to the suffrages of the electors.

The Nationalist programme has the merit of being clear, short, and to the point. It can be summed up in three sentences:—

(a) Complete independence and military evacuation of Egypt, the Sudan, and all the "dependencies of the Sudan," which at any time were under the Egyptian flag and which have since for any reason been ceded to other Powers. The party leaders point out that they do not expect to achieve all their demands under this head by negotiation with Great Britain alone. It is realised that Italy and other Powers are concerned; but the Nationalists point out their programme is not drawn up solely with a view to future relations with Great Britain only.

(b) The abolition of the Capitulations.

(c) An absolute refusal to enter into any negotiations with Great Britain until she has completely evacuated Egypt and the Sudan.

It should be pointed out that nobody outside the Nationalist Party, which is, numerically, very unimportant, considers that the above programme comes within the range of practical politics. Most Egyptians consider that the Nationalists might as well demand the moon as what they are at present asking for.

The Liberal Constitutionals.

The Liberal Constitutionals also have a definite programme, which was enunciated by Adly Pasha Yeghen when the party was originally formed, and which has recently been republished by *Al Siyassa*, the party's organ. It is as follows:—

(a) Complete independence, by which is meant no foreign interference in Egypt's external or internal affairs.

(b) No military occupation of Egypt by a foreign Power.

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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(c) No settlement of the Sudan question which shall separate that country from Egypt, or shall in any way encroach on Egypt's sovereignty, or shall prejudice Egypt's vital interests (*i.e.*, in the waters of the Nile) in the Sudan.

(d) The reservation of the question of the Capitulations to eventual negotiations between Egypt and the Capitulatory Powers. The modification of the Capitulations to a form more consistent with Egypt's position as an independent State, or their total abolition, is contemplated, but, at the same time, Adly Pasha declared that foreigners should be assured as adequate protection in the future as they had enjoyed in the past.

(e) The immediate appointment of Egyptian diplomatic representatives abroad.

(f) Egypt to become a member of the League of Nations.

(g) Political partisan differences to be sunk and a united front to be presented in demanding the realisation of the above aims.

The Zaghlulists.

As for the Wafd, it is impossible to say what their present programme is. They have never really got beyond the first article of their political faith, "*Istiklal el Tam* (complete independence) for Egypt and the Sudan," and that solitary demand has never been clearly defined. Perhaps their policy is best described as being all things to all men. When, as sometimes happens, prominent members of foreign communities are being entertained to a tea party at one of the hotels, the Capitulations are likened to the laws of the Medes and Persians. On the other hand, an electoral meeting in Sayeda Zenab, or some other purely native quarter, produces plentiful demands that the foreigner shall no longer be allowed to enjoy privileges denied to the Egyptian. The Wafd has always been the party of personalities rather than principles. The magic name of Zaghlul covers a multitude of inconsistencies. When Saad says Turn, they all turn. For example, it was they who first, from the Egyptian side, suggested the compensation of retiring foreign officials, a proposal which, now carried out by the Yehia Cabinet, has evoked from the Wafd a protest so strong as narrowly to escape prosecution. The genius of the Wafd lies in opposition, in destructive criticism rather than constructive policy. If anything is to be gathered from recent Wafd utterances, it is that one of the earliest acts of a Zaghlulist Government will be to impeach its political rivals for high treason. The fire-eating William Effendi Makram, the present spokesman of the Wafd, at an election meeting at Boulac last week compared the Liberal Constitutionals to murderers, incapable of feeling remorse, while their spokesmen were liars. This kind of thing, unfortunately, seems to be considered admirable political argument, and in Egypt goes down uncommonly well.

As will have been noted, none of the parties look beyond the forthcoming negotiations with Great Britain. That is, indeed, the root of the whole matter. The first Parliamentary elections in Egypt are going to be fought on one single issue—Egypt's relations with Great Britain.

GREECE.

Athens, August 4.

Peace.

The news of the signing of the Peace Treaty at Lausanne was received here without enthusiasm—one could almost say with apathy. When the Treaty of Sèvres was signed three years ago, Athenians went delirious with joy, congratulating and even embracing each other in the streets; the entire town was then beflagged, Church bells were ringing merrily, and huge coloured maps of Greater Greece were posted everywhere, while at night the main thoroughfares and public buildings were illuminated with myriads of multi-coloured lights. And now? How different everything is! Had it not been for the big headlines in the morning papers and the Thanksgiving Service held at the Cathedral, one would have hardly realised that the curtain had at last fallen on the final act of the Anatolian drama.

Despite their exterior apathy, however, there is no doubt that the Greek people were relieved to hear the good news. One must remember that the country has been in a state of war for nearly eleven years, and it seems too good to be true that it will at last be given a chance to resume its old peaceful existence, and will be able to give its full attention to the many thorny internal problems which it is now facing.

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The Political Situation.

The most important of these problems is, of course, the General Election. The date has not yet been fixed; but the Revolutionary leader, Colonel Plastiras, informed me a few days ago that, if everything goes well, it would be held on the second or third Sunday in October. (Greek General Elections always take place on a Sunday.) It is naturally too early yet to say how many and which of the parties will appear in the pre-electoral arena, but it goes without saying that the struggle will be confined principally to the Venizelists and the anti-Venizelists. As M. Venizelos absolutely refuses to return to Greece, the former are, at present, without a leader. The latter can boast of many chiefs, but the one feared most by both the Revolutionaries and the Liberals is General Metaxas, under whose banner are united all the partisans of the old régimes. In order effectively to oppose General Metaxas, the Revolutionary Government is endeavouring to create a new party called the "National Coalition Group," consisting of all the moderate political elements in the country, whether they be Venizelists or "Antis." The leadership of this "Coalition" has already been offered to M. Alexander Zaimis, who, in addition to being *persona grata* with the Allies, enjoys an immense prestige among the Greek people, as he has always succeeded in steering clear of parties and the various political cliques which have done so much harm to Greece. Without committing himself in any way, M. Zaimis informed Colonel Plastiras that he would very carefully think the matter over and announce his decision within the next few days. It is generally believed, however, that the conditions which M. Zaimis will set forth will be considered unacceptable by the "Revolution," in which case the leadership of the Coalition will either be entrusted to the present Prime Minister, Colonel Gonatas, or the idea of a National Coalition will be dropped altogether, each party being left to fight its own battle.

Another question which is also receiving the most serious attention of the Government is that of ratifying the Peace Treaty. To wait until November, when the Constituent Assembly will probably be convoked, is out of the question, more especially seeing that the exchange of populations—a very urgent matter indeed—cannot commence until the Treaty has been ratified by both Athens and Angora. In order to overcome this difficulty, it is proposed that the Treaty be ratified either by a plebiscite or by a legislative decree. As there exists some doubt, however, regarding the validity of either of these procedures, the matter has been placed before M. Venizelos, whose reply has not yet been received

Miscellaneous News.

The American Near East Relief Committee will discontinue its feeding operations in Constantinople and other places outside Greece as from August 15. The American organisation had already informed the Hellenic Government that its responsibilities would end with the signing of the Peace Treaty.

The new Bulgarian Minister in Athens, M. Dobreff, presented this morning his letters of credence to King George II.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, August 14.

The Naroden Sgovor.

The fusion of parties has at last taken place. A Protocol, signed on August 10 between the Democrats, Radicals, and Narodno-Progressists, brings these parties together into what is to be called the Democratic Union. The Union will work together with the Naroden Sgovor (National Entente) created by the Prime Minister, M. Zankoff. The Union and the Sgovor will probably make an appeal to the country in about two months' time. While their exact strength is as yet unknown, it is considered that they should secure a clear majority in the Sobranye. The Liberal and the Socialist Parties remain outside the Union, but Liberals are lending it their support—and it is not likely that the Socialists will go into active Opposition.

The main Opposition will come from the Communists. It is possible that before the elections take place the Communist Party may be declared outside the law. If this were to happen, the Agrarians would constitute the only Opposition. Meanwhile many Agrarians are turning Communists, as the disorganisation brought on their party by the events of June 9 does not give them any hope of electoral success.

The Naroden Sgovor is gradually becoming a factor of real importance in Bulgarian politics. M. Zankoff appears likely to remain Prime Minister; his relations with the King are good, and the army, which virtually appointed him, continues to support him. During the two months that he has been in power he has been content to allow his Ministers a more or less free hand in reorganising their various departments. But he is not a mere figurehead, as was supposed at first.

The former leaders of the Bourgeois Parties, with one or two possible exceptions, have decided to retire from political life. In doing so they have behaved very wisely, as there is no doubt that both external and internal opinion demanded new men. The younger element who have taken their place are, of course, without experience; but, given a fair chance, there is no reason why they should not justify themselves.

The Ægean Outlet.

Much interest has been evinced here in the correspondence recently published in *The Times* regarding an outlet on the Ægean Sea for Bulgaria. The official point of view here remains the same. Bulgaria claims that Article 48 of the Treaty of Neuilly should be executed. She considers that this Article cannot be executed unless the territory between Bulgaria and the Ægean is taken away from Greece and then internationalised or put under the League of Nations. Whether her claim will ever be satisfied by the Allies is becoming rather doubtful. The Conference of Lausanne is finished, and Bulgarians fear that the Allies will hesitate to reopen the Near Eastern Question. In the opinion of the writer, however, if the Allies do not reopen the question, it will sooner or later reopen itself.

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The Land Reform Bill.

Some two years ago the Agrarians voted a law by which no family was entitled to possess more than 300 decars of land. Persons who possessed more had their land expropriated, and were indemnified. Indemnification was, however, in no manner commensurate with the loss sustained. In addition, the law was executed with a good deal of laxity, and the political adversaries of the Agrarians were more harshly treated than their supporters. Nevertheless, on the whole the measure was a good one, as it enabled many peasants to become self-supporting. As a result of the change of Government, there is a strong movement in favour of the law being repealed. This movement naturally emanates from the persons whose land was expropriated. No decision will be come to until after the elections; but if the Government yield to the pressure which is being brought to bear on them, they will lose a big number of the votes of the rural population. Probably the best thing that can be done is to maintain the law, but at the same time carry out an inquiry into the actual working thereof. If this were done, the peasants would be satisfied, while those persons who have not been properly indemnified will be able to have their cases examined and, if necessary, can be compensated.

A Macedonian Demonstration.

Since June 9 Macedonians in Bulgaria have held themselves very much in reserve. The twentieth anniversary of Macedonia's revolution against Turkish rule was, however, marked by demonstrations held all over Bulgaria. "Macedonia for the Macedonians" was once again the universal cry, and many speeches in favour of autonomy were made. Otherwise there were no incidents, and everything passed off quietly.

PALESTINE.

Jerusalem, August 5.

King Faisal's Visit.

The last two or three weeks have been remarkably free of noteworthy incident. King Faisal's visit to Amman, to his brother Abdullah, the Emir of Transjordania, is the only possible exception, and that is only of secondary interest to Palestine. It has been generally supposed that the visit had, as a main object, to devise concerted action in face of the threatening Wahabis; but King Faisal may also, without loss of dignity, be credited with the desire of seeing the world, and the Emir Abdullah with the desire of displaying the pomp and majesty of his own independent realm and the skill of his Army. Many of the higher Palestinian Government officials went across to Transjordania to pay their respects to King Faisal, as well as delegations representing one thing or another. The Jaffa Arab Congress Executive (as representing the Moslem-Christian Association's grievances) sent a deputation, as also did the Haifa Orthodox Christian Arab Congress. Such delegations may have their point and use, but they are not very obvious. State banquets and military manœuvres seem, however, to have been the main order of the day. The visit followed immediately on the Feast of Kourban Bairam, and so coincided with popular rejoicings. The famous, almost untouched, Græco-Roman amphitheatre at Amman was further adorned on the occasion with a "merry-go-round"!

The Hejaz Railway.

The Hejaz Railway, which was largely wrecked or dismantled during the War, is now reported completely restored as far south as Medina. It never, of course, reached as far as Mecca. Regular train services are promised in the near future.

Transjordanian Stamps.

Transjordania is, at last, and to signalise in a measure its independence, to issue its own postage stamps. After the occupation it, like Palestine, used the E.E.F. stamps, which, late in 1920, were overprinted with the Arabic words *Sharq ul-Urdan* (East of Jordan). The new special Transjordanian issue is to have as its design a picture of the Emir Abdullah's winter palace and an Arab mounted on a camel.

The Haifa Congress.

Two days ago the Executive of the Orthodox Arab Christian Congress, held three weeks ago at Haifa, formally presented to the Patriarch of Jerusalem the resolutions which had been adopted by the Congress. These resolutions are thirty in number. The gist of them is a demand for a controlling share in the financial management, and choice of personnel, of the Greek Convent, or "The Fraternity of the Holy Sepulchre." It raises a very difficult question. From the standpoint of the Arab Orthodox laity and the inferior Arab priesthood, it must be galling in the extreme to see all the important ecclesiastical posts, from that of Patriarch downwards, in the possession of non-Arabic-speaking Greek monks, when such Greeks are not only those who are confined to the monasteries and who hold only titular rank, but those having actual pastoral charges, like the Archbishop of Nazareth; and still more galling to see the considerable income of the Patriarchate administered solely by these Greek leaders, and—so the Arab laity assert—administered badly and not by any means to the advantage of the Arab laity, since higher educational facilities and hospitals are entirely absent, and elementary schools are very few and very inefficient. On the other side, the "Hellenic" leaders can rightly urge that they have existed in their present form in Palestine for very many centuries, before the Arab conquest that for many centuries they were almost the only survival of Orthodox Christianity in the Holy Land; that they owed their existence to "Hellenic" support from abroad, and never did, any more than they do now, depend on Palestinian Orthodox support; that the present inability to provide adequate educational, charitable, and pastoral help for the Palestinian Orthodox flock is only a temporary disability, due to the financial stringencies resulting from the War years; and, even so, what help they had been able to hold out to the Orthodox laity was undertaken as a voluntary labour rather than as a primary duty.

It is inevitable that the Thirty Resolutions will not prove acceptable to the Patriarchate, and probably the laity may appeal to the local Government to intervene, as the Turkish Government did fifteen years ago, when this very same dispute last came to a head. The Patriarchate will, however, make an attempt to meet the laity to the extent of consenting to the formation of a mixed (Arab laity and Greek monastic) committee, which shall administer a portion of the Patriarchal revenue earmarked for lay benefits—educational and charitable. This was a compromise arrived at by a Committee of Investigation set up by Turkey shortly before the War, but the mixed committee never, apparently, found opportunity to function, and it has remained a dead letter.

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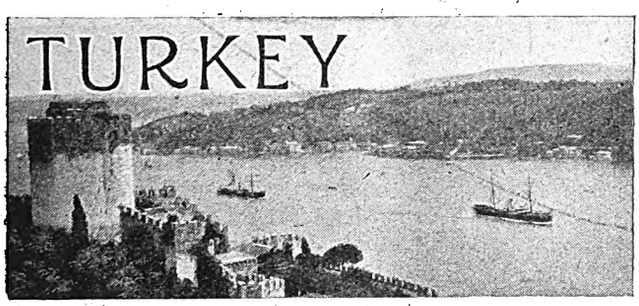
Arabs and the Advisory Council.

The question of the resigned Arab members of the Advisory Council is kept gently simmering. The local Die-Hards have a suspicion that the nominees do not yet look upon their resignation as final, and it is found necessary every now and then to point out the resolution at the Jaffa Congress proclaiming an anathema on any Arab who dares to have any truck with the Council. In spite of this threat, a gentle infiltration of what seem to be "semi-inspired" statements is coming through, *via* the Egyptian paper *Al-Mokattam*, to the effect that the "provisionally resigned" nominees feel that they can better serve their country in the Advisory Council than out of it, or that they fear that their final resignation may involve them in the loss of their present positions. The Die-Hards are beginning to feel the absence of moral support from British sources. *The Times* leader of some time back, and the recent very decisive statements in Parliament from the Under-Secretary of the Colonial Office, have caused it to dawn in their minds that their former wholly negative policy is harming them, and that a local governmental machine may come into being which is content to ignore them completely. There are now a few nervous and tentative efforts in certain sections of the local Arab Press towards sounding public opinion on the advisability of a "moderate" party which, without deviating from the cardinal principles of Palestinian Arab Nationalism, shall yet condescend to treat with the British local Government.



Constantinople, August 14.

The New Order.

The past week has seen the definite orientation of Turkish thoughts away from the past and towards the future, towards the reconstruction of post-War Turkey and the problems of the future which await solution. The return of Ismet Pasha and his principal colleagues from Lausanne, the convocation of the Second National Assembly on August 11, are the principal landmarks. Comments upon both these events show the changed outlook, and the whole country is agog with curiosity as to the new Constitution and the policy of the Government.

It has frequently been pointed out by many competent observers that the overwhelming success of Mustapha Kemal's People's Party at the elections does not necessarily imply that no opposition exists. As a matter of fact, it is becoming increasingly obvious that a very important current of opposition is gathering strength within the ranks of this all-embracing party. Personal jealousies and rivalries are beginning to show up in the light of day. The two senior officers, Noureddin Pasha and Ali Ihsan Pasha, are regarded as acknowledged leaders of the military elements, which, for one reason or another are opposed to the personal ascendancy of Mustapha Kemal. The tour of Hussein Reouf Bey round the country, partly for political purposes and partly for reasons of health, has let loose a flood of rumours concerning his impending nomination to a diplomatic post abroad and his replacement in the Cabinet by Fethi Bey, the present Minister of the Interior. The return of Ismet Pasha, covered with laurels and greeted as the saviour of his country, has almost unconsciously evoked the question: What place is reserved for him in the future scheme of things? We refuse to commit ourselves to definite prophecies; but if the new assembly carries on the tradition of its predecessor by maintaining the personal ascendancy of Mustapha Kemal in one form or another, we venture to predict that means will be found to divert the energies of the more prominent leaders of Nationalist Turkey into channels where they will be less likely to enter into competition with the influences of the Ghazi Pasha.

A Government Programme.

More or less inspired versions of the trend of the Government policy are in circulation as the result of a preliminary party meeting of the People's Party under the presidency of Mustapha Kemal on August 7. At this meeting the statutes of the constitution of the party were distributed, and the president sketched the progress of the National movement since the Congress at Balikesir in 1919. The immediate programme of the party is reported to consist of the following plans: the ratification of the Peace Treaty as soon as possible, the modification of the fundamental law of the Constitution in the direction of one-degree elections for deputies, limitation of the mandate of the Assembly to four years, collective Cabinet responsibility to the Assembly, the institution of a Grand Court to replace the Council of State of the old régime. The Ghazi Pasha is to deliver on his expected election to the Presidency of the Assembly on August 13, a speech, in which he will make reference to these proposed modifications and will foreshadow the introduction of bills dealing with the suppression of brigandage, the general registration of the population, the welfare of Government officials, and the creation of various schools and educational institutions. He is expected to make a pronouncement on the proposals of the Minister of Finance for improved methods of collecting tithes and on various other fiscal reforms; also proposals for the Ministry of Public Works concerning the construction and improvement of railways and roads are expected to take a prominent place in the Government programme.

Passport Formalities.

The opening of the new Assembly has happily coincided with the adoption of a very sensible modification of the rules for the entry of foreigners into Turkey, which had called forth vigorous criticisms from all sources. Henceforward the Government has laid down that the submission to Angora of the names of intending arrivals in Turkey is unnecessary, and the only formality to be observed by the intending visitor is the visa from the Turkish Consulate in his country of residence, and if no Turkish Consulate exists, the fee for the visa will be claimed on arrival at Constantinople. This is a reversion to the original procedure, which has worked quite successfully for many months with the minimum of trouble to all concerned. Certain categories of persons are excluded from these provisions, such as Christian Hellenic subjects, Armenian *émigrés* from Cilicia and the Eastern Vilayets, certain ex-Ottoman subjects, etc. These provisions do not apply to the subjects of those States which restrict the entry of Turkish subjects into their territories; in such cases reciprocal restrictions will be applied. The

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question of the unrestricted admission of foreigners into Anatolia is being considered, but until a definite decision is taken the present rules, which prescribe individual reference to Angora, remain in force.

Allied Evacuation.

Preparations for the evacuation of the Allied Forces are going on apace. Conferences between the Allied Generals and Selaheddin Adil, Military Governor of Constantinople, are taking place with the object of fixing all the complicated details of the handing over of buildings, military material, etc. The signature of peace has led to the resumption of official relations between the Turkish and the Allied Armies and the exchange of salutes between detachments. The British Forces are holding their farewell functions, among which the Air Force Pageant at the aerodrome at San Stefano will live long in the minds of those who were fortunate enough to witness it. On a beautiful afternoon last Saturday magnificent exhibitions of formation flying, stunting, air-fighting, bombing, message-dropping, etc., were given by the land section of the R.A.F., assisted by their colleagues of H.M.S. Pegasus and Ark Royal in seaplanes. A very large crowd of naval, military, and civil guests was present at the invitation of Group Captain Fellowes and the R.A.F. officers, who made most liberal and comprehensive arrangements for their comfort and refreshment.

The Angora Assembly.

At the last moment before going to post, telegrams have arrived from Angora describing yesterday's sitting of the Assembly. Ali Fuad Pasha, as provisional President, opened the session at 1.30 p.m., in the presence of a large number of the new deputies, including Ismet Pasha, who had just arrived. As was expected Mustapha Kemal Pasha was elected President and Ali Fuad Pasha Second President. As Vice-Presidents were elected Sabri Bey, first Vice-President and Ismet Pasha second Vice-President. Ismet Pasha had a very cordial welcome, both from the members of the Assembly and from the population of Angora, who turned out in crowds to meet him.

PERSIA.

Teheran, July 12.

The Elections

As mentioned in my last letter the fourth term of the Mejliss expired on June 22, but before its dissolution the Parliament voted several measures. The Prime Minister, Mushir ed Dowleh, presented his programme, which differed little from that of his predecessors, and the principal features were the maintenance of strict neutrality and good relations with all foreign Powers, and the bringing to a close of the elections for the new Mejliss as soon as possible, so that the country may not be without a Parliament longer than is necessary. The scrutiny of the votes for Teheran has not been completed, and very few of the provincial towns have yet returned their representatives. In some places the elections have not proceeded smoothly, as witness Shiraz, where a crowd broke into the polling booth, soaked one of the ballot boxes containing some 400 votes with petrol and set it alight! This will further delay matters there, as a fresh ballot must be taken.

In a leading article the semi-official organ, *Iran*, states that the counting of the votes has established the fact that from 30 to 40 candidates have put themselves up for election for each of the seats in the Mejliss, and the paper sees in this a sign of the poverty and general misery prevailing throughout the country at the present time, and of the difficulty of finding employment to eke out an existence. The article adds that the whole policy of the country appears to be becoming more and more one of being able to earn one's livelihood.

Government Loans.

One of the Mejliss' last acts before its dissolution was to pass a law authorising the Government to conclude a loan of five million dollars through an American bank, and negotiations for this have been actively proceeding through the Persian Minister at Washington. The proceeds of this loan are to be devoted solely towards payment of expenditure approved by the fourth Mejliss, and it is repayable in eight to fifteen years from the revenues of the Treasury other than the Royalties accruing from the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, which seem to be Persia's most reliable source of income.

This loan is quite independent of the loan of at least ten million dollars which is to be granted to the Persian Government in connection with the concession for the oilfields of the four Northern provinces, with regard to which negotiations are also proceeding in America. It is expected to be granted shortly.

The Mejliss also authorised the Government to negotiate a further loan of thirty-five million dollars through an American bank, or banks, for the development of the riches and mineral resources of the country. No engagement must, however, be entered into by the Government in this connection without previous sanction by the Mejliss.

Shiah Priests from Irak.

Considerable excitement has been caused here this last week by the arrival of some 30 Persian Shiah priests from Mesopotamia at Kermanshah. They left Irak for Persia as a protest against the arrest and deportation by the Irak Government of one of the leading Persian priests at Kerbela.

The occasion has, of course, been seized upon eagerly by the Ulemas here, who have held indignation meetings in the Mosques against this action of the Irak Government, which is naturally attributed to the British authorities in Mesopotamia, who are attacked for thus disregarding the religious feelings of the Moslems. Notes have been exchanged between the Persian Government and the British Legation on the subject, and the Shah has been petitioned to intervene with the British Government on behalf of the exiled priest. Deputations have been sent from the priests and other bodies in the capital to the priests at Kermanshah, and it is hoped that a settlement will shortly be reached enabling the priests to return to Mesopotamia.

The local Press has again burst forth in a frenzy of feeling against the British and their policy in Mesopotamia and Persia, and hostile demonstrations were organised the other day against the British, one outside the Shah's Palace in town, and the other outside the British Legation—both of which were dispersed by the police and military. Feeling is also running high in all provincial towns, portending further trouble should the negotiations not result in the return of the priests to their posts in Mesopotamia.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 23 (New Style).
August 10 (Old Style).
Moharrem 10, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 11, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. H. Humphreys, British Minister to Afghanistan, and Mrs. Humphreys have returned to Kabul.

The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Roumania left Bucharest on August 13 for France to join Queen Marie.

King Fuad has conferred the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Nile upon Sir William Goodenough Hayter, K.B.E., Royal Counsel.

M. D. Subotitch, Special Attaché at the Legation for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left town on August 16 for Carlsbad.

It is officially announced in Paris that General Naulin has been appointed Assistant to General Weygand, French High Commissioner in Syria.

M. Stoyan Petroff, First Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation, is acting as Chargé d'Affaires during the absence of the Minister, who has left for Sofia.

M. Yovanovitch, the Consul-General of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, and Mme. Florence Yovanovitch, have left London for Strathpeffer, Scotland, for a stay of three weeks.

Dr. Alexander Granville, President of the Quarantine Board in Egypt, has been granted by H.M. King Fuad the title of Pasha. He is the first British civilian official who has been thus honoured.

Princess Christopher of Greece, with whom Queen Olga of Greece is staying, will remain in residence for some weeks at Spencer House, St. James's Place, before leaving for the Continent.

Princess Ileana of Roumania left the Ritz Hotel on August 14 for a month's stay at Newquay, Cornwall. Her Royal Highness visited the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace the previous day.

Mr. Arthur S. Merton, who has recently undergone a serious operation in London, is now making excellent progress. He will not be able, however, to return to Cairo until the beginning of November.

The *Palestine Weekly* reports that Cav. Uff. V. Speranza, the Italian Consul in Jerusalem, has been appointed Italian Consul-General at Baghdad, and will be replaced by the Consul-General at Constantinople, Signor Nuvoari.

Reuter's Simla correspondent announces that Mr. Joseph Wilson-Johnston, a Deputy Commissioner of the Punjab, who is now at home on leave, has been appointed Administrator of the Nabha State pending the constitution of the Regency Council, of which he will be President

Mahmud Fakhry Pasha, former Egyptian Minister of Finance, and son-in-law of King Fuad, has been appointed Egyptian Minister to France. France is represented in Egypt by M. Henry Gaillard. The French Agency and Consulate-General in Cairo has been raised to the status of a Legation.

The Admiralty notified on August 14 the following flag appointment :—

Rear-Admiral Aubrey C. H. Smith, C.B., M.V.O., for duty inside Admiralty, to date October 1, and as Admiralty representative on the League of Nations Commission, vice Rear-Admiral John R. Segrave, C.B. Rear-Admiral Smith's last appointment was head of the Naval Mission to Greece.

OBITUARY.

Mohamed Bey Abaza, whose death is announced, was a leading member of the Abaza family. The son of Suliman Pasha Abaza, the trusted friend of Lord Kitchener, and one time head of the family, Mohamed Bey spent his whole career in the Egyptian public service. At a very early age he entered the police under Coles Pasha, and at the time of his death was Deputy Director of State Domains. Both his Egyptian and British chiefs placed the fullest confidence in his administrative ability. Mohamed Bey Abaza possessed all the finer attributes of the pure blood Arab. Though an ardent Nationalist, he never ceased to strive to bring British and Egyptians to a better mutual understanding. He played a great and useful part behind the political scenes, particularly during the past few years.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1923.

TURKEY'S FIRST NEED.

An early illustration of the disadvantages of Angora as capital of Turkey has been provided by the inadequate reports of the opening of the new Turkish Assembly. Statements of what Mustapha Kemal Pasha was going to say, circulated, no doubt, by an official Press agency, are fuller than the accounts of what he actually said. When all allowance is made for the remoteness of Angora and the absence of foreign correspondents, there would seem to be some justification for the disappointment felt in the President's speech. He appears to have made no attempt to elaborate the Government's programme, but contented himself with a recapitulation of Turkey's achievements. "National security and the independence of the Government" were for him the most important matters, and he allows it to be inferred that he is still more concerned to discover Turkey's potential enemies, whether abroad or at home, than to devote his talents to her economic and intellectual progress. His remarks seemingly were not addressed only to foreign countries. There was, in any case, sufficient vagueness about them to make them applicable to the Government's political opponents, for it was those who menaced Turkey's internal unity as well as those who might be supposed to have designs upon her integrity that were warned that they would find themselves confronted with the whole force of the nation; in other words, the Turkish Army, efficiently organised for the purpose. A saving clause, it is only fair to add, came at the end: "As long as our rights and national honour are respected we shall reciprocate with a similar spirit; but we have learnt by unhappy experience that the rights of the weak are frequently not respected; consequently we must not omit to make the necessary preparations for any eventualities. Meanwhile we shall certainly aim at entertaining good relations with foreign countries on the principles of mutual respect and friendship."

Not only the tenour of Mustapha Kemal Pasha's speech on this occasion, but also the general attitude of the people suggest that most Turks are overlooking the first great need of the country. It is, we are convinced, that both the Turkish Government and the Turkish people should rid themselves of the obsession that they are still fighting with their backs to the wall against a hostile world. That they should yet be under the spell of this bogey is not altogether unnatural, but they cannot on that account justify the attitude. They must bring themselves to realise that with the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne the hostility of which they were formerly the object, as far as the Great Powers are concerned, is entirely a thing of the past. These Powers may have struggled hard to retain their privileges or to restrict from one motive or another Turkey's freedom of action, but when once they have agreed to a definite Treaty on equal terms there can be no question of an attitude that calls for sabre rattling on the part of Turkey, even if that device were likely to prove as effective as Mustapha Kemal Pasha would have his hearers believe. The Turkish Army is entitled to the nation's admiration and gratitude, but a sense of proportion will be beneficial. Against a Balkan neighbour, the Turkish Army, fighting on its own soil, is never to be despised. There is, however, nothing in its victory over a disunited and dispirited Greece that would justify greater reliance being placed in the future on the upkeep of a big army at a crippling expense than on the guarantee of territorial integrity that membership of the League of Nations provides at no expense at all. Turkey requires at once, and will continue to require for many years to come, all the money on which she can lay hands by means of foreign loans or internal taxation for her economic and cultural development. It would be the height of folly in her case to spend money on the upkeep of an army greater than the maintenance of order and security at home calls for, when by the acceptance without suspicion or reservations of all that membership of the League of Nations entails she can obtain all the safeguards that she needs. Even if the emphasis laid upon an efficient army were merely a rhetorical sop to a predominantly military Assembly, Mustapha Kemal Pasha must be held to have lost a good opportunity of directing the minds of his audience away from past struggles to the constructive policy that the future requires.

The omission was in part supplied, though in the vaguest terms, by the new Prime Minister, Fethi Bey. Among the first problems to engage the Government's attention he placed economic and financial questions and the restoration of security. He informed the Assembly that the prolongation of the War had increased brigandage and rendered certain regions unsafe, and he stated that all the forces of the Government would now be employed to destroy the brigand bands. The eyes of the whole world, he added, were fixed upon Turkey, and the Turks must immediately begin to put into effect the most urgent reforms up to the limits of their financial capacity. Even here we miss the right note. If Turkey is to rely upon herself alone, her achievement will fall very far short of her own expectations. On the other hand, if she will frankly face the position that in the past her thoughts and aptitude have turned exclusively to military pursuits, to the neglect of commerce and industry, and if she will of her own accord invite and accept advice and assistance, then she need have no misgivings as to the ultimate results of her hard-won independence. Again, the first step is to exorcise the distrust of the foreigner or, rather, of foreigners as a whole. It is not suggested that the Turks should place themselves at the mercy of any chance foreign adventurer who presents himself. To obviate this danger, the Government will be well advised to make its own selection of foreign helpers, whose advice can be solicited by the business world in regard to similar appointments of its own. For let there be no

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mistake. The Turkish people has endured much in the face of foreign aggression; it will not tolerate with the same equanimity the indefinite continuation of its evil plight in peace time. Unless, therefore, there are early signs of material prosperity, the Turk will become a prey to the spirit of unrest that battens on food scarcity and the lack of occupation, with disastrous results to his present leaders. As it is impossible that Turkey should rehabilitate herself quickly enough by her own efforts unaided, the Government should lose no time in seeking foreign assistance and in setting an example of trust in the advice of those for whose selection it accepts responsibility.

THE LAUSANNE TREATY.

By CAPT. W. WEDGWOOD BENN, D.S.O., M.P.

Benjamin Franklin said: "There never was a good war nor a bad peace," and whatever may have been the former hopes and aims of the Allies, there is none who did not hear with relief the news that a peace had been signed at Lausanne.

The most striking feature of the dramatic events which have occurred in the Near East during the last five years is the sharp contrast between power paralysed by dissension and intrigue and weakness growing into strength by steady purpose and a deep emerging national consciousness.

The Sèvres demands (in many respects harsh) represent what the Allies by overwhelming force were able to impose on the Turkish Government in August, 1920. Seven months before that date another document had been signed, backed by nothing but the determination of a tiny people. Little was heard of it at the time; few knew even its terms; and yet to-day the National Pact has triumphed, in nearly every respect, over the Treaty of Sèvres.

The reason is not hard to understand. The policy of the Allies was enfeebled by self-seeking. The policy of the Turk was strengthened by single-mindedness.

Nor were Western differences of recent growth. It was not the Greek retreat which created, though it accentuated, them. The *Observer*, so long ago as June, 1920, said:—

"M. Briand's indictment of the 'Clemenceau policy' is an ironic, not unfriendly, exposition of the extent to which Britain has profited from the peace, more particularly in the Near East. He reproaches not our, but his own, Government with this fact. He regrets not that there has been bargaining over territories in the market, but that his country has possessed herself of too few pledges and has bargained badly."

It is of no advantage now to recall the nature of the preoccupations (the Franklin-Bouillon negotiations and the campaigns in aid of the White Generals, for instance), which hampered the unity of Allied action. One cannot forget, however, the acute note of tragedy in the story of the Greeks. Sent to Anatolia by the Allies; egged-on but not assisted, openly abandoned by some of their friends, and, finally, only a year ago incited by the British Prime Minister, in a speech which was read as an Order of the Day to the Constantinian troops, the unhappy nation had ultimately to be left to its fate.

In case it should be urged that Mr. Lloyd George's policy of September, 1922, was in the Gladstonian tradition, let me quote this passage:—

"We have never given countenance to single-handed attempts to coerce Turkey. We feel that single-handed attempts to coerce Turkey would probably lead to immediate bloodshed and calamity, with great uncertainty as to the issue. The coercion we recommended was coercion by the united authority of Europe, and we always contended that in the case where the united authority of Europe was brought into action, there was no fear of having to proceed to actual coercion. (Midlothian speeches, November 25, 1879.)

In short, the admission of Turkey into a League of Nations is a real satisfaction of Mr. Gladstone's ideal. How variously, and it is to be hoped effectively, the League enters into the machinery of Turkish Government can be seen by an examination of the Lausanne Treaty. The Pilgrimage Commission, the exchange of populations, the appointment of *Conseillers Légistes*, and the protection of Minorities are all matters now of direct concern to Geneva.

* * * * * *

Let us for a moment examine the terms of the National Pact and see how far they are fulfilled by the new Treaty.

Article I. declares the right, now being exercised more or less effectually, of the Arab populations to determine their own destiny. It further demands the same right for all territories with an Ottoman Moslem majority. In deference to this demand, the Mosul question is to be settled by special agreement, or, failing that, by the arbitration of the League of Nations.

Article III. asks what has not been granted—a plebiscite in Western Thrace. We may note, however, that the boundary has been adjusted in the Turkish interest.

Article IV. demands the security of Constantinople, and offers what is commonly called the "Freedom of the Straits," an agreement as to which is the subject of a special convention.

Article V. offers to minorities the same measure of protection as is afforded to minorities in enemy countries by the other War Treaties. Except that these guarantees are to some extent strengthened by the special provisions of the Treaty, referred to above, it may be said that this article has been fulfilled. It contains a stipulation for reciprocal treatment which is absolutely just, and no doubt will be complied with.

Article VI., which has been the cause of long delay and much bargaining, may be said also to have been agreed to. It embodies the aspiration for free national and economic development. It rejects "restriction inimical to our development in political, judicial, financial, and other matters."

The Capitulatory rights, first conferred on Englishmen in 1583, disappear, and, subject to a small measure of special protection, the foreigner in Turkey is as the foreigner elsewhere.

In short, the national aims of Angora have been realised. Mustapha Kemal has achieved what he set out to do. The right and, indeed, the only attitude for the Western Powers to assume is one of good will. Turkey will certainly need the practical assistance of European finance and commerce, the more so since she is losing so many elements which in the past have formed the backbone of her trade. It is for her now to prove that she can use wisely her new independence and to create in the breasts of the private individuals whose help is vital to her that confidence without which all the diplomatic instruments in the world are of no value.

According to the *Palestine Weekly*, M. Ribot, an official of the French Administration in Syria, has been appointed Deputy High Commissioner in the place of M. Robert de Caix, who has returned to France.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

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THE BULGARIAN SITUATION.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—As a regular reader of your esteemed weekly review, I read a letter, published in the issue of July 12, on "The Bulgarian Situation," written by M. P. M. Mattheeff, the mis-statements and misrepresentations of which should not pass unnoticed.

No doubt the worst thing of the recent *coup d'état* in Bulgaria, my unhappy fatherland, was the extremely cruel murder of the late Bulgarian Premier, M. Stambolisky. M. Mattheeff states: "All hated him as a violent upstart, demagogue, and corrupted tyrant. . . ." This is the language of an ex-Bulgarian diplomat and a good servant of ex-Tsar Ferdinand. From this language of M. Mattheeff one can understand why Bulgaria is now in so unfortunate a situation. When M. Mattheeff states that all hated Stambolisky, he is utterly wrong. Stambolisky was loved by the great majority of the Bulgarian people as no other Bulgarian statesman is loved. He was, however, hated, bitterly hated, by a small sect of people calling themselves *intelligentsia*.

It is neither my business nor the business of men like M. Mattheeff to speak of the great services which Stambolisky did for Bulgaria—that can be left to the historians.

"Bulgarians, you shall look for me on this and that world," said Stambolisky in his last Parliamentary speech. And the time will come very soon when even his cruel murderers will look for him.

Again, M. Mattheeff states that "Stambolisky's colleagues are under arrest, not because they are dangerous men, but because while in power they passed unconstitutional laws." This statement is not only wholly untrue, but entirely nonsense. I may say that not a single law, of all the valuable and constructive legislation voted by the Agrarian majority in the National Assembly, is unconstitutional. M. Mattheeff may speak idle words, but he cannot give any proof. However, while this talk of passing unconstitutional laws by Stambolisky's colleagues is idle and nonsensical, the imprisonment of Stambolisky's colleagues—the Ministers and the members of the Legislative Chamber—is not only an unprecedented barbarism, but entirely unconstitutional. Thus the Bulgarian Constitution, Art. 93, provides: "Each member of the Assembly has a right to express freely his opinion and to vote according to his own conviction and conscience. Nobody can either question him for expressed opinion or set up against him any persecution."

And yet Art. 96 of the same Constitution says:—"Members of the National Assembly, five days prior to its opening and throughout the session, shall not be imprisoned and tried except in cases when they are accused of crimes for which the criminal law provides capital punishment. In this event, cases for imprisonment shall immediately be reported to the National Assembly, with whose approval only may a representative be sent for trial." These are the provisions of the Bulgarian Constitution. Stambolisky's colleagues, Ministers and representatives, all active members of the Agrarian Party—those of them, that is, who are still alive—and even Stambolisky's sick wife and his eighteen-year-old boy, have been imprisoned because for the Bulgarian revolutionists no Constitution exists, no law, not even a drop of humanity.

These usurpers intend to get rid of the powerful Agrarian organisation. They are killing or imprisoning all Agrarian leaders. They intend to try within two days, according to the order of the new Minister of Justice, most of those good Bulgarians whose sin is that they happened to be members of the Agrarian Party.

That is the real situation of volcanised Bulgaria. What will happen, Heaven alone knows.—I am, etc.,

Theo. Geshkoff,
Ex-Under-Secretary of the Agrarian Party.

New York, July 22, 1923.

[Publication of this letter does not imply approval of the language in which the writer indulges in his political controversy.—Ed.]

ARMENIA AND THE LEAGUE.

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—In your issue of August 9 you publish an appeal sent by the Joint Council of British Armenian Societies to Lord Curzon, asking him to bring to the notice of the League of Nations the unhappy condition of the Armenian refugees, with a view to obtaining for them a solution which may enable them to enjoy a reasonable measure of security and happiness.

In the interest of the Armenians themselves, I sincerely hope there is no idea of making Turkey's membership of the League, to which reference is made in the appeal, conditional upon her acquiescence in the return of these unfortunate people, nor when she has become a member of using the machinery of the League for this purpose.

After the determined way in which Turkey refused at Lausanne to submit to outside interference in what she considers a domestic affair, any fresh attempt by the League of Nations is foredoomed to failure. The only result would be to make the Turks suspicious of the League and indefinitely postpone any chance of their allowing these victims of European meddling to return.

The Turks know that many of the members of these British Armenian organisations actively encouraged in the past the separatist aspirations of their Armenian subjects, and they fear they will do so again should the refugees return to their homes.

The dissolution of these societies would, therefore, be more likely to assist their protégés than this appeal to Lord Curzon for intervention by the League of Nations. It is this continued threat of outside interference which ruins any chance of the Turks and Armenians settling this matter amicably between themselves. The Armenians realise this, and are already asking to be saved from their friends. If they are left alone there is no reason why the Armenians should not again become the "millet-i-sadiki"—contented people—they were until 1878, when their loyalty was first undermined by Russian intrigue.—I am, etc.,

C. F. Dixon-Johnson.

Croft-on-Tees, August 11, 1923.

SERBIAN LIBRARIES.

It is stated that since the South Slav Entente Committee was registered, in January, 1919, as a war charity "to undertake the reconstruction of the libraries of Serbia," over 18,000 books have been sent to Belgrade. These include an adequate collection of all classes of English literature, as well as works of reference. Since 1919 the funds raised by the committee amount to £136, of which £107 has been expended on the carriage and packing of books. The committee has received the thanks of the Rector of the University of Belgrade, of the Minister of Education, and of the Yugoslav Government.

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Near East Bookshelf.

PALESTINE.

"PALESTINE: THE LAND OF THREE FAITHS." By Philip Graves (London: Jonathan Cape. 12s. 6d. net.)

Of all the many problems to which the War gave rise, there is none which has aroused more passion, greater display of ignorance, and larger need for self-control and an ability to see things steadily than that of Palestine. By the ordinary man the problem is solved by the application of prejudice—either his own or that of the proprietor of his favourite newspaper. But to the intelligent student Palestine presents a most difficult question, extended study of which often seems to create more hopeless bewilderment.

It is to the rescue of this serious student that Mr. Philip Graves has now come, and few writers could have come with more obvious qualifications for enlightening. Not only is Mr. Graves extraordinarily well informed, not only has he vast experience of this problem of Palestine, but he has balance, a nice sense generally of proportion, and a sturdy serenity which permits him to hope that the best may yet come out of the second-best. We—that is, the British Government—have messed the problem; we have encouraged and disappointed both Jew and Arab; we are as yet completely trusted by neither; but, by dint of rigid perseverance and unswerving honesty, we may, Mr. Graves thinks, right the matter.

The author begins by getting the picture in correct perspective with a slight historical sketch of the Holy Land up to 1914. From this he proceeds to the core of the problem. He examines the reaction of the War upon Zionism, recounts the history of the Balfour Declaration, and proves, incidentally, to his own satisfaction, that the agreement which Sir Henry McMahon made with King Hussein was not conflicted by that Declaration. On this count, it may be that Mr. Graves derives an unimportant and sterile satisfaction, because, as Dr. Hogarth says in his extremely sensible Introduction, whatever the letter of the Agreement may mean, the spirit in which we preached Nationalism to the Arabs was decidedly in conflict with the promises held out to the Zionists.

Mr. Graves goes on to expound the position of the Arabs in Palestine, the nature and the justification of their opposition both to Zionist claims and to the supposed dangers of the British Administration. He describes lucidly the impossible extremism both of Jew and of Arab, the division and sects into which both races are divided, and the moderate elements in each. Some of the details which he supplies of Zionist difficulties may be a little superfluous, as also the pages which he devotes to the forgery (as he considers it) of the famous "Protocols," but, apart from these two things, his exposition is throughout admirably useful.

The conclusion which Mr. Graves reaches after going in and out and round and about the question is that, not only must Great Britain hold Palestine in military interests, for very certainly either France, or Italy, or Turkey would step in where we feared to remain, but she must resist the cry for evacuation or lose all her name for political honesty—a loss that would be experienced not in the East alone, but also among American Jewry. And there is both a moderate Zionist and Arab attitude that we can honourably support.

This is a sensible, yet optimistic, conclusion. How optimistic it is can be realised by setting down the question which so experienced an observer as Dr. Hogarth asks—he has just referred to our interpretation of the Balfour Declaration as "depreciated currency" for the Zionists—"If it should fall yet a point or two—by further diminution, for example, of the status and powers of the Jewish Council—will it be marketable at all?" Mr. Graves' answer is vague but comprehensive enough: we must plod on, patiently and perseveringly, "for that Semitic synthesis in the Holy Land in which the Jew will play the part to which his most Jewish leaders aspire—the part of intermediary and perhaps one day of mediator between West and East."

The book has sixteen excellent illustrations, a map, and four valuable appendices, but it suffers from absence of any index, and, in lesser degree, from slackness of punctuation. In consideration of its great and urgent informative value, it is to be hoped that the next edition will at least be provided with an index.

THREE NOVELS.

"THE ROAD TO DELHI." By R. J. Minney. (London: The Bodley Head. 7s. 6d. net.)

"THE KEY OF DREAMS." By L. Adams Beck. (London: Constable. 7s. 6d. net.)

"THE AMBER GIRL." By Clarice Mayne and R. Thurston Hopkins. (London: Cecil Palmer. 3s. 6d. net.)

In "Maki" Mr. Minney told the story of a native girl; in his latest novel he writes about a boy. Motihari begins his career at a very early age by being lost on the Grand Trunk Road, where he is knocked down by the car of an American business man from Calcutta, who befriends him. In time he loses this protection, and after several adventures, is educated at school and college in Calcutta during the War. He joins the followers of Ghandi, and amongst them meets and falls in love with a Bengali girl of fine character, who has been educated at the same college.

The sight of his former American benefactor hurt in a riot changes his outlook. He feels a horror of the futility of violence, to which many unscrupulous followers of Ghandi are using every means to incite the people, and of any attempt to change the Government of India, when so much reform in the lives and customs of the people themselves is needed. He preaches his belief in many villages. Finally, at the time of the Prince of Wales's visit to Calcutta, a magnificent act of sacrifice on his part is rewarded, and all ends happily.

Mr. Minney absolutely convinces us that he knows what he is writing about. The India that he shows us is known and understood, and is not the India of careless superficial observation or of literary convention. Motihari's adventure among the beggars is powerfully bold. The crescent-shaped man of the Street of the Goldsmiths is the result of a true creative imagination—a horrible figure who remains in the memory. This story should be read with interest as a finely conceived

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picture of some features of life in India, especially as it is affected by present problems.

Lance Dunbar, the hero of Mr. Beck's novel, is in the end converted to Buddhism, and the whole story is coloured by enthusiasm for this religion. This gives the reader the slightly aggravated feeling produced by any novel which is in part a work of propaganda. But this feeling is counteracted by the fact that the author is able to convey to us his own deep sense of beauty, both spiritual and physical, for which we cannot but be grateful. Lovely things seen in Japan, China, and Java are sketched delicately but clearly. We feel acutely all that is beautiful in Miyuki, Lance's mistress—half Japanese and half English—in spite of her final treachery. Mr. Beck is not so successful with the Englishwoman with whom Lance finds real happiness and who shares with him his spiritual discoveries. She is the wronged but noble wife of a dissolute husband, and is sometimes rather more holy than human. She, Miyuki, and Haridas, the Buddhist monk from whom Lance learns wisdom, all come into his life after he has inherited the fortune of his cousin of the same name as himself, with whose life they have all been connected. We are given to understand that the dead Lance is fulfilling his own destiny, his earthly career having been cut short by the War, through his cousin. This idea is skilfully carried out, and is not over-elaborated. "The Key of Dreams" is evidently written with sincerity, and has touches of exquisite and unusual beauty.

Rossetta, "the amber girl," is a Persian who has "a long oval face of a wondrous transparent olive tint. A prominent brow and arched delicate eyebrows fitly surmounted a nose smoothly aquiline, but with broad, well-set nostrils that bespoke fortitude, coquetry, and Eastern passion." She is married to Tarvil, a Turkish "super-spy," and leader of insurrection in Egypt, about whom "rested an atmosphere of horror, peculiar, unique. He was not as other men." She loves and, after her husband is murdered, marries Godfrey Braddon, of the British Secret Service. The episodes which lead up to this end are feeble in themselves, and held together by the slackest of threads. All the chief characters repeatedly quote from "Omar Khayyam" and refer to the "Arabian Nights." We had hopes at the beginning that this book was perhaps written as a parody of the all-too-many novels that deal with the "passion," the "mystery," and the "colour" of the East. This hope abandoned, we were merely left bewildered by so much silliness.

A Lloyd's message from Sulina stated that the Roumanian destroyer Naluca ran ashore 55 miles north of that place, in the Black Sea, and that assistance had been sent.

A *hartal* (day of mourning) has been proclaimed by the All-India Congress in consequence of the recent Kenya decision.

At the Russo-Roumanian frontier conference at Tiraspol, says the "Rosta" Agency, the draft agreement of the Russian delegation was approved in principle.

Two slight earthquake shocks have been felt at Turbet-i-Haidari, in North-Eastern Persia. Beyond the collapse of unoccupied houses, no damage has been done, the town having been completely evacuated after the great earthquake of May 25 last.

Serbia and Roumania are among the countries sending representatives to attend the Fourth Congress of the Inter-Allied Federation of ex-Service Men, organised under the auspices of Belgian former officers and soldiers' associations, which will be held in Belgium from September 1 to 11.

Reuter reports that a strike among various categories of workers in Athens began last Saturday, and has spread to several towns in the provinces. The Government has decided to set up an extraordinary court martial to try the strikers' leaders who, being mobilised, are subject to the military laws.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

A slight outbreak of cholera is reported at Basrah.

The floating dock delivered to Greece by Germany on account of reparations has arrived at Athens.

The new Italian Consul, Commandante de Nuvolari, has arrived in Jerusalem, and has taken up his residence at the Italian Consulate.

The Queen of Roumania arrived last week from Paris on a visit to her sister, the Grand Duchess Cyril of Russia, at her villa at St. Briac.

While flying at Tatoi Aerodrome, near Athens, on August 10, a military aeroplane crashed and burst into flames. Two flying officers were killed.

According to reports from Kabul, a great fire at the end of June destroyed part of an important bazaar and caused damage to the extent of about £20,000.

Signor Montagna, the Italian Minister, has returned to Athens after a long absence, and has notified the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that he is again at the head of the Legation.

A procession, carrying black flags, was not allowed by the Persian police to approach the British Legation in Teheran on August 10, in order to protest against the expulsion of Shiah Mujtahids from Irak by King Feisal's Government.

With reference to the statement which appeared in the Press recently regarding a bomb which was found in his Majesty the Shah's summer palace, the Persian Legation in London is officially informed that the rumour is without foundation.

Reuter reports that M. Oboff, Minister of Agriculture in the Stambolisky Cabinet, has been sentenced *in contumaciam* by the Plevna Court to imprisonment for fifteen years and loss of political and civic rights for a period of twenty-one years for organising armed resistance to the present Bulgarian Government. The ex-Minister escaped to Roumania and thence to Prague.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Situation.

There seems no question that the British Note to the Allies, despite the criticisms that have been levelled at it from various quarters, has done much to clarify the position; and during the last few days it is not an exaggeration to say that something akin to a hopeful feeling has sprung up that out of this exchange of views the way to a settlement will be found. The reception of the Note in France was unfavourable outwardly at first, but there appears to have been a distinct change in sentiment, and possibly inspired comments on M. Poincaré's reply, which will have arrived before these notes appear, suggest that it will be distinctly conciliatory in tone. It would be very surprising were it otherwise, for even if our Ally is not at the moment directly affected as we are by the Ruhr occupation, it is sufficiently obvious that it is as much in France's interest as in that of this country to have a settlement which will enable the Allies to concentrate on economic development.

Reparations.

Fortunately, on the one essential point, that Germany must pay Reparations to the utmost extent consistent with her capacity to do so, there is no disagreement, the only difference being in respect of the method of determining her resources. It should not be a very difficult matter for the Allies to come to an understanding on this point, and on the method of enforcing payment. It needs no demonstration that were Germany to be let off lightly it would be a most disastrous thing for this country and for our Allies. What it would mean would be that while we are handicapped with the heavy burden of the American debt, which, of course, is in effect a tax on our export trade, Germany would be suffering from no such embarrassment, and would, in consequence, be able to compete against us to great advantage in the world markets. In fact, as far as we are concerned, there would be no competition, for the conditions would give the trade to Germany, and in doing so would give the historians ample scope for essays in future schoolbooks on the advantage of losing a war.

This Year's Crops.

It is a strange commentary on the prevailing economic conditions that Nature's kindness in regard to this year's harvest should not have been altogether an unmixed blessing. Nearly every country is able to report satisfactory crops. In the Near East, for instance, the yield generally is expected to be good, great grain-producing centres like Canada are rejoicing in the promise of a bumper harvest, while there is talk of considerable export from Russia, and, indeed, I understand that a certain amount of grain-chartering business has been put through for the Black Sea ports. In the circumstances one would naturally assume that the harvest would have an immediate and most beneficial influence on the recovery of a war-distressed world. Unfortunately, this is not likely to be the case, for the value of an abundant surplus of grain lies in the certainty of markets for it, and buyers at the present time are in a minority. Europe will not be importing much grain this year because its crops are good, and the obvious consequence will be that other importing centres will naturally have to pay less for their requirements. In other words, prices will fall. America will be somewhat seriously affected, and Canada also to some extent, but the main incidence will fall on the country with the strongest exchange, while the Near Eastern countries will suffer (those, that is, who are able to export to any considerable degree) by not obtaining the prices they could reasonably have expected to obtain.

Sudan Trade Improving.

The figures for the trade of the Sudan for the first five months of the year show a marked improvement compared with the statistics for the corresponding period of the previous year, and it is worth noting that the improvement is most marked as regards exports. The imports amounted in value to £E1,747,750 and the exports to £E1,310,270, there being increases respectively of £E82,766 and £E397,846. Egypt and Great Britain between them were responsible for more than two-thirds of the import trade of the Sudan, the figures for Egypt being £E651,936 and for Great Britain £E558,582. Specially noteworthy in the list of imports is the great increase in cotton piece goods, which amounted in value to £E414,619, as compared with £E297,734 in 1922. As regards exports, there was a marked increase in the trade in grain 12,240 tons were exported in the five months, as compared with 8,274 tons, the respective values being £E569,511 and £E279,759. On the other hand, the export of ginned cotton was about the same as in 1922, though the value was somewhat higher. This is, of course, the feature on which the Sudan will have to depend to rectify its adverse trade balance, and from now onwards this item should make its presence increasingly felt in the trade balance-sheet.

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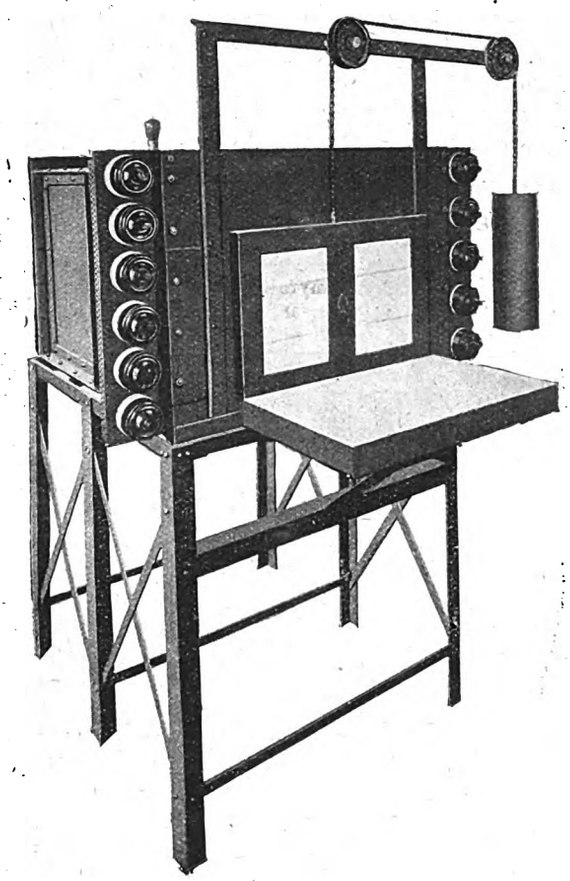
Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative).

Internally Heated Electric Furnaces.

I only dealt very briefly last week with a new type of electric furnace, and I propose now to amplify what I then said on the subject. For a variety of reasons, notably the ease and certainty of heat control, electric furnaces have come to enjoy a very marked degree of popularity, and a demand has for some time existed for a larger furnace than has hitherto been available. For a considerable period Messrs. the Automatic and Electric Furnaces, Ltd., have been conducting experiments with a view to producing a furnace that would meet requirements, and the new type of



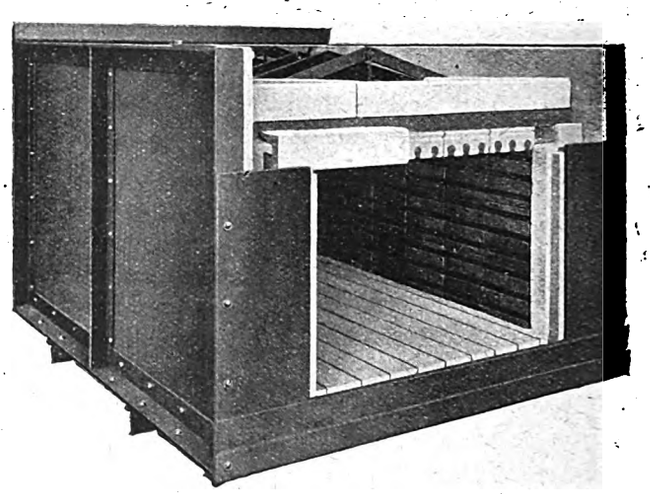
The Wild Barfield Internally-Heated Furnace.

Wild Barfield internally-heated furnace (an illustration of which is given on this page) marks their success in overcoming a number of technical difficulties that stood in the way of their production of the larger type.

This furnace is constructed on the unit principle, its walls, floor, and roof being composed of bricks 4 in. by 4in., which dovetail into one another, and have on the inside face three grooves which form regular lines when the bricks are fitted together and in which are placed the heating wires. As will be seen from the second illustration, the grooves are so designed that the heating units cannot come into contact with the material in the furnace. The furnace, which is constructed so as to reduce the loss of heat to a minimum, has an outside casing of boiler-plate, which is strengthened by angle-iron, while the door is constructed of firebricks. As I mentioned last week, it is possible to obtain a temperature of 800 degrees C. in an hour, while another 200 degrees C. can be obtained in roughly 1½ hours.

The Shipping Exhibition.

We are nearing the end of the close season as far as exhibitions are concerned, and the last day of this month will see the opening at Olympia of the Shipping, Engineering and Machinery Exhibition. This promises to be a very notable undertaking, and should give a much-needed stimulus to British trade, as it is understood that hundreds of overseas representatives of Admiralties, harbour authorities, railways, shipping companies, and engineering construction will be present. The exhibition will be of a very comprehensive character, as apart from the machinery exhibits, such as cranes, elevators, semi-Diesel marine engines, and motor-boat, marine and stationary internal combustion engines, the exhibits will include the latest developments in the application of gas and electricity to small businesses, the latest methods of fuel saving, various new signalling, burglar, and fire alarms, interchangeable signs, and hundreds of



Sectional View of Furnace.

other appliances, and as many of them will be seen at work it is evident that the exhibition will make a wide appeal to the general public as well as to the business man. It is worthy of note *en passant*, as an indication of the enterprise of the organisers of the exhibition, that their latest bulletin, giving detailed particulars of the exhibits, which has just reached me, is printed in three languages—English, French, and Spanish.

Some Exhibits.

A few notes on some of the outstanding exhibits may be of interest. Messrs. W. H. Dorman and Co., Ltd., will be showing a comprehensive range of wave power plant, including a self-propelled three-drill wave power plant, designed for public works, etc., and a three-drill wave power generator mounted on a trolley to suit a narrow gauge track. The "Boulton" patent water elevator will be shown by Messrs. Boulton and Paul, Ltd. This elevator, which can be utilised for any depth up to 300 feet, is designed to supersede the old-fashioned deep water pump. A "Ransome" electric runabout crane, electric industrial pumps, and "Ransome" continuous current electric motors will be features of the stand of Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd. At the stand of Messrs. Parsons Marine Steam Turbine Co., Ltd., a working model of Parsons' Turbines working in conjunction with Parsons' double reduction gearing will be exhibited. A hydraulic tyre press for removing and fixing the solid rubber tyres of commercial vehicles will be shown by Messrs.

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Hollings and Guest, Ltd., whose other exhibits will include a bending press for bending plates cold up to 6 ft. in width. Messrs. George Kent, Ltd., will be showing a large variety of meters and valves, while another interesting stand in what may be called the general section of the exhibition will be that of Messrs. The Aerograph Co., Ltd., who will demonstrate the Aerograph system of utilising compressed air for the application of paints, varnishes, etc. Besides the exhibitors in this section that I have mentioned, there are a whole host of others whose exhibits will be of an important character, and I shall hope to be able to refer to at least a few of these when the time comes to review the exhibition.

The section devoted to motor-boat, marine, and stationary internal combustion engines and accessories also promises to be very interesting. Messrs. the Ailsa Craig Motor Co., Limited, will be showing their fast runabout launch, a standard work boat, and a number of types of marine motors. Another notable stand will be that of Messrs. the Parsons Motor Co., Ltd., whose exhibits will include a standard 28 h.p. type Parsons engine, a standard 42 h.p. type Parsons marine set for kerosene fuel, and a standard 60 h.p. type Parsons marine set for kerosene fuel.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

SHIPPING AT THE PIRÆUS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Athens, August 4.

The total number of ships which entered the port of Piræus during July was 550. Of these 431 were Greek, 45 Italian, 26 British, 8 Dutch, 8 French, 7 German, 6 Roumanian, 4 Swedish, 4 Norwegian, 3 American, 2 Danish, 2 Bulgarian, 1 Yugoslavian, 1 Russian, 1 Belgian, and 1 Japanese. The number of sailing vessels which entered the port during the same period was 682, of which 11 were Italian.

The receipts of the Piræus Customs during the month of July amounted to 25,431,931.10 paper drs. and 143,320 drs. in gold, as against 13,645,289.60 paper drachmæ collected during the corresponding month last year.

A RIVER LAUNCH FOR INDIA.

Light craft are constantly in demand for India, judging from the records of builders of these types of vessels. For instance, a 35-ft. river launch has been recently completed and shipped to India to the order of H.H. Maharana Sir Fateh Singh by Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd. This craft is a typical example of the embodiment of materials, workmanship, and finish of the highest class, which, it will be appreciated, would be expected in a pleasure launch of this nature. Accommodation for passengers is arranged in a forward well, upholstered damask portable chairs, and athwartship seats being provided, whilst the after well is for the use of the steersman and any extra hands that may be carried.

The engine installed is a Thornycroft A.B./4 type, developing 30 b.h.p. on petrol, and is enclosed in a teak casing with removable side panels and glass top panels. With this equipment a speed of over 11 knots is attained. The hull construction is of double-skin teak, copper sheathed to above the water line.

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, August 25); s.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malakuta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, August 25); s.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 1); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 12); s.s. Rialto for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, September 15).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 31); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 14).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Flaminian for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo (Birkenhead, September 3).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, August 25); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, September 8)

Johnston Line.—S.s. Quernmore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8).

Moss Line.—S.s. Amarna for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, August 25).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Grodno for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, August 25); s.s. City of Oxford for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Delta for Bombay (London, August 24); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8).

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the eleven days ended July 31 amounted to £E78,138.

The Board of Trade has confirmed the appointment of Mr. W. D. Montgomery Clarke to be H.M. Trade Commissioner (Grade II.) at Calcutta.

Mr. C. G. Hope Gill, the British Vice-Consul at Casablanca, Morocco, who is now on a visit to the United Kingdom, is prepared to interview firms interested in trade in Morocco (Tangier and Casablanca districts) at the Department of Overseas Trade during the mornings of August 24, 25, and 27. Applications for appointments must be made to the Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1, quoting the reference 4,879/TG.

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THE TURKISH TOBACCO TRADE.

An interesting little manual by Mr. T. Constantinides on "Handling and Blending Turkish Tobacco" has recently been published, containing, with certain additions, a series of articles that have appeared in *Tobacco*. The writer aims at bringing about the adoption of a fixed code for the grading and classifying of Turkish tobacco with a view to facilitating the trade in this commodity, and advocates certain codes and systems as being best calculated, in his opinion, to meet the obvious need. In the preface he explains that those he has set forth "have been so adapted to combine the best of those which have come within the extensive purview of the writer," while having sufficient originality of their own.

It must be a very moot point whether Turkish tobacco will ever be a serious competitor in this country with the Virginian leaf, for the British taste differs from that of the Continental, and whatever else it is it is essentially conservative. But in this country, as elsewhere, the Turkish tobacco industry has an immense leeway to make up to regain its pre-war position, and this can obviously only be accomplished by the most scrupulous attention to the preparation of the leaf. The emphasis laid by Mr. Constantinides on the importance of this point, and his careful and painstaking survey of the industry, render the manual of extreme value, and there can be no question that in undertaking and accomplishing the work he has done a great service to the trade.

ROUMANIAN TRADE DEBTS.

The London Chamber of Commerce state that the publication has been officially authorised of the following statement regarding the Roumanian law for the settlement of private debts contracted in currency of superior quotation, namely:

"The law promulgated on June 2 is a law with a general character which regulates payments in foreign currency so far as a collective convention between any group of foreign creditors and Roumanian debtors may not have been passed and ratified by the Roumanian Government.

"Consequently, if there is any difference between the above-mentioned general law and the British conventions of February 15 and March 9, these conventions —so far as concerns British creditors only —will naturally prevail over the general law.

"This was always the intention of the Roumanian Government. In order to avoid all misunderstandings, this principle will be once more affirmed by a law which will be passed immediately after the opening of the Roumanian Parliament in November, 1923.

"An arrangement of the question of the pre-war debts owing to British creditors will be negotiated between the British creditors and Roumanian debtors in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of the convention concluded with British creditors.

"In pursuance of the provisions of the above-mentioned law to the effect that it will be applied in the spirit of British conventions, a regulation elaborated by the 'office of payments in foreign currency' will declare the law immediately enforceable in favour of British creditors in accordance with their conventions of February 15 and March 9, 1923."

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Generally Steady Tone.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair demand. Tate's cubes have been done at 59s. 6d.; London granulated has come to business at 56s. 1½d., while Lyle's granulated is 56s. 4½d. Foreign descriptions have been steady. White Java is 51s. 9d., while Czech granulated is 54s. 6d. Futures: November, 20s. 9d.; December, 20s. 9d.

Coffee.—A firm tone has prevailed. East Indian remains at 108s., Costa Rica is unchanged at 102s., Nairobi is the same at 90s., while Santos is unaltered at 65s.

Dried Fruit.—Currants are a distinctly harder market as a result of unfavourable reports regarding the Greek crop. Sultanas are in good request, and supplies of some varieties seem to be adequate to meet present requirements.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been dull, Indian being 6d. down at 19s. 6d., while La Plata at 18s. 1½d. is 7½d. lower. Rapeseed is firm, Toria being 16s. and real bold Ferozepore 16s. Cottonseed has been variable. Indian is 7½d. lower at 9s. 1½d., Egyptian black is 10s. 10½d., while Sakellaridis is 9s. 10½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed is 2s. lower at 41s. Rapeseed is steady, with crude at 38s. and technical refined at 41s. Cotton oil is quiet. Refined common edible is 42s., Bombay crude is 35s., Egyptian crude is 36s., technical is 38s., and deodorised is 44s.

Oil Cakes.—The tone has generally been firm. Linseed cake is 5s. up at 220s., coconut cake is unchanged at 170s., while cottonseed cake is 5s. up at 155s.

YUGOSLAV TOBACCO PRODUCTION.

The Commercial Secretary at Belgrade has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that it is confidently anticipated that the tobacco harvest will be a considerable improvement on the figures for last year, when the production was comparatively poor, and fell below the requirements of the country, necessitating the importation from Holland of commoner tobaccos in addition to the finer qualities usually imported. The production for last year amounted to 9,781,443 kilogrammes, whilst the annual consumption in this country is not less than 20,000,000 kilogrammes.

In view of the shortage of tobacco last year the Monopoly Administration decided this year to raise the prices paid to producers. This has had the effect of extending the interest in tobacco-growing, which in the past has been regarded as an unprofitable industry. In accordance with this decision the prices paid to the producers has been increased by 200 per cent., and in some parts by as much as 300 per cent. As a consequence of this incentive to the growers, almost double the area has been sown with tobacco this year, which, together with a sufficient rainfall, gives hopes of a very satisfactory tobacco crop.

On the basis of reports already received, the Monopoly Administration estimate the production as follows (in kilogrammes):—Southern Serbia, 6,219,492; Northern Serbia, 3,190,802; Montenegro, 179,549; Vojvodina, 4,363,827; Bosnia, 990,692; Herzegovina, 3,622,938; Dalmatia, 1,619,186; Croatia and Slavonia, 445,325; Slovenia, 125,938; total, 20,757,749.

COMPANY NOTICES.

NATIONAL BANK of EGYPT.
An INTERIM DIVIDEND of 8s. per share has been declared PAYABLE on the 3rd September, on account of the profits for 1923. Coupon No. 34 will therefore be payable on that date. Forms for listing Coupons may be obtained at the National Bank of Egypt, 6-7 King William-street, E.C.4.

ADVANCE IN IVORY PRICES.

Messrs. Hale and Son, in their report on the quarterly ivory sales held in July, state:—

The quarterly ivory sales commenced on the 24th and concluded on the 25th inst. They comprised 32½ tons (against 41¼ tons same time last year), viz., 12¼ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam; ¾ ton Abyssinian, 10¾ tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 7¾ tons West Coast and Central African; ¾ ton Lisbon, and ¼ ton land carriage; also ¼ ton rhinoceros horns, sea-horse tusks, etc. Total, 32¾ tons.

The Egyptian consisted entirely of the Alexandrian description, there being no Malta catalogued. The East Indian and East African descriptions consisted of 7¾ tons soft tusks, ¼ ton hard and few Siam, 1 ton billiard ball pieces, ¼ ton bagatelle ditto, ¼ ton billiard ball scrivelloes and few bagatelle, ½ ton cut points for balls, ½ ton cut points off large tusks, ¼ ton under-size and defective points, and few centres, 1 ton cut hollows, ¼ ton scrivelloes, and ¼ ton mixed defective pieces, etc.

Of the above quantities the whole was new import with the exception of ¾ ton—viz., ½ ton East Indian and ¼ ton Egyptian. The whole quantity offered was sold. The quantity catalogued of all descriptions was small. There was a good attendance of buyers and a good demand, the competition being well maintained. America, the Continent, and home trade all bought freely. There was again a good advance in prices, soft tusks being £15 to £20 per cwt. higher, and hard £8 to £12 per cwt. dearer. Billiard ball pieces were well competed for and advanced £12 to £15 per cwt. on the average, some sizes bringing extreme prices.

Abyssinian.—The small quantity offered sold as other soft descriptions.

Egyptian.—Soft large and medium tusks were £15 to £20 per cwt. higher, and hard £8 to £12 per cwt. dearer. Scrivelloes £2 to £4 per cwt. higher. Billiard ball scrivelloes were irregular, and on the whole brought about last sales' prices. Soft bangle tusks advanced £10 to £20 per cwt., and hard £5 to £10 per cwt.

BULGARIAN MARKET REVIVING.

The Bulgarska Banka, in its report dated August 1, states:—

There is a slight improvement in the commercial situation. Money is becoming less scarce, and credits have been accorded to firms of good standing with considerable caution. Cotton thread, cabots and, in general, products imported and intended for local consumption, have been actively sold during the month. The harvest is considered good. It is very probable that the first transactions in grain will take place shortly. In general the depression has affected all branches of commerce. The bitter lessons of these latter times have made dealers very cautious in their transactions. If this attitude is maintained, the situation will become healthy before the end of the year.

As regards exports, the tobacco trade is at a standstill, but the preparation of tobacco sold previously continues. Transactions in cocoons have been effected round about 300-325 leva. For the moment business is dull, but there will be an improvement towards August 15, when the cocoons will be quite dry. The rose crop this year did not exceed 1,200 kgrs. The gathering of flowers commenced on May 25 and ended on June 13. On an average the yield has been 100 kgrs. of flowers per decaire.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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SUDAN GUM TRADE.

Record Arrivals at El Obeid.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for June gives the following particulars:—

The exports of gum during June were as follows:—Via Port Sudan, 51,800 kilos of bleached of the value of £E3,068, 1,019,907 kilos of hashab of the value of £E50,575, and 141,305 kilos of talh (including 20,137 kilos of gum dust) of the value of £E3,035; and via Halfa 8,104 kilos of hashab of the value of £E402.

Kordofan Province.—26,055 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during the month of June, as against 14,510 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.257 per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 5,792 kantars, as against 8,403 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 6,846 kantars, as against 8,174 kantars last year, the average price being £1.030 per kantar. 822 kantars were sold at Um Ruaba at an average price of £1.150 the kantar, as against 804 kantars last year. At Rahad 66 kantars were sold at prices ranging from 650 m/ms. to £1.400, as against 94 kantars during June last year.

El Obeid Market Report.

June.—There were 2,094 lots auctioned during the month. Gum continued to arrive from distant parts of the province, as is shown by the large number of camel loads which arrived as compared with bull and donkey loads—viz., 6,320 camel loads, 736 donkey loads, and 5 bull loads. The highest price paid was P.T. 147 per kantar of 100 rottles and the lowest P.T. 120, the average price being P.T. 125. Daily fluctuation in price averaged P.T. 6, and the highest fluctuation in one day was P.T. 16, which was due to purchase of slightly damaged gum. Prices were steady in the early part of the month, rose to 147 P.T. in the middle, but fell to P.T. 127 by the end of the month. The total amount of gum sold was 26,055 kantars, an average of 1,085 kantars per day. Total price paid was £E32,759.567 m/ms. Never since the El-Obeid market gum was established has there been so much gum brought in. Arrivals for the month constitute a record for the market.

CROPS IN ALEPPO DISTRICT.

The Acting British Consul at Aleppo, in forwarding to the Department of Overseas Trade the following information concerning the present year's harvest, adds that little is available for export.

Wheat is an average crop. Each chomboul (100 kilos) sown has produced eight-fold. The total crop is estimated to amount to 150,000 chombouls (i.e., 15,000 tons). The market price varies between 275 and 325 Turkish silver piatres per chomboul.

Barley is also an average crop. Each chomboul (85 kilos) sown has produced ten-fold. The total crop is estimated at 170,000 chombouls (i.e., 14,450 tons). The market price varies between 120 and 130 Turkish silver piastres per chomboul.

Rye is poor. Each chomboul (100 kilos) sown only produced two-fold. The crop is estimated at 20/25,000 chombouls (i.e., 2/2,500 tons).

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields.—Production for the week to August 17:—Gemsah, 25 tons; Hurghada, 2,774 tons.

Sir Edwin F. Stockton, M.P., chairman and governing director of Abbott and Stockton, Ltd., Manchester, and a director of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, has been elected to the board of Lloyds Bank.

THE TRANSYLVANIAN HARVEST.

H.M. Consul at Cluj (Mr. C. Goodwin) has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade the following crop report for Transylvania, based on information published in the organ of the Transylvanian Agricultural Society:—

Harvesting of wheat and rye, which is completed in the plain, is still in progress in the hilly districts. For winter wheat the average yield is estimated at 8-10 quintals per hectare, for rye at 10 quintals. Spring wheat, which did not develop satisfactorily, improved slightly after late rains, but the average yield is not expected to exceed 7 quintals per hectare.

Harvesting of winter barley is completed. The estimated average yield is 14 quintals per hectare. Spring barley, which was light and sparse owing to insufficient rain, also improved slightly towards the end, especially in the hilly districts. The average yield will, however, hardly exceed 7 quintals per hectare.

Oats have improved considerably after recent rains, and a fair crop is expected. Maize is very irregular. Flax and hemp are medium. Sugar-beet and mangel-wurzel are good. Potatoes are very good. The meadows and pastures are quite satisfactory in some districts and bad in others.

The prospects of the vineyards are very good.

The British Vice-Consul at Timisoara gives the following information regarding the crops in the Banat:—

Rape seed is an average crop. The estimated total yield is 14,000 quintals. The area under wheat was smaller than last year. On the whole, the crop may be said to be a good one, especially in those parts which are inhabited by Suabians, where the yield per hectare was 17-21 quintals. In others it was 9-13, so that the average should be about 12-14 quintals per hectare. The quality was excellent, the weight of a hectolitre varying from 78-82 kilogrammes. It is is also satisfactory to note that the wheat is free from impurities, and that it was only affected by rust in certain districts where the land was not properly cultivated.

Barley gave a very good crop. The average is estimated at 14-16 quintals per hectare. Very little rye was sown in the Banat. The average yield is 12 quintals per hectare. Oats are a bad crop owing to insufficient rain. The average yield is estimated at 7 quintals per hectare. Maize did not develop satisfactorily owing to the drought. The prospects are not very good.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	270-275
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	424-444
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.16-25.19
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3 1/32-1.4 1/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	102.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1,035
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3 1/32-1.4 1/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	860
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.55 5/8-4.55 3/4
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	81.65
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	155¼
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	530
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-330,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,150,000*

* Nominal.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Active and Firm.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ended August 10, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active, and the advance secured during the preceding week has been well maintained. The reasons of this week's firmness are the strong recovery in the American markets and the fact that the Egyptian Government have to-day started their purchases in the spot market, paying $31 for fully good fair and $32 for fully good fair to good Sakellarides cotton. The rectification of the Egyptian stock in Liverpool, reported in our last week's report, is not correct, but through no fault of ours. Mail advices report that this reduction was only 6,000 B/s. The difference between November Sakel and October Ashmouni was pushed up at one time during the week to over $5, but it has been again brought down to $4.80. The demand from abroad has been slightly more active, but remains still rather moderate.

This week's receipts amounted to 1,579 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,635,454 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 69,894 krs., and the stock now stands at 951,719 krs., against 1,020,034 krs. a week ago and 1,560,444 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—Demand from spinners continues poor, and we have had still another quiet week at Minet-el-Bassal. Sales amount to about 3,500 B/s, of which we estimate 1950 Sakel, 1,400 B/s Uppers, and 150 B/s Brown. This total includes about 450 B/s of Sakel, fully good fair and fully good fair to good, bought to-day by the Egyptian Government, following their last week's decision to intervene in the cotton spot market.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in with the better grades in most request. Prices of spot against contracts are somewhat easier, especially in the lower grades.

Uppers.—The majority of the demand has been for good grades, the lower styles being in poor request. Spot prices against contracts are firm for the better grades, but easier for the lower qualities. Good is for the moment very scarce, though fully good is still to be found; but this situation should be very shortly eased by the arrival of new crops.

White is neglected and quotations of spot are easier.

Brown.—A fair business has been done to-day, but quotations of spot are generally easier.

The Crop.

The weather has been fairly favourable to the plants. Complaints of deficient fruiting of Sakellarides plants are being received from various districts in Lower Egypt. The pink boll worm attack has at present about the same intensity as at the same period last year. One or two ginning factories in Upper Egypt have started work. The first arrivals of new crop cotton are expected next week.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture on the condition of the cotton crop for the month of July reads as follows :—

In the system of notation employed, 100 is taken to represent an average condition of the crop reported on in each division of the country; this average is calculated from the crop results of the preceding ten years. The figures given below represent forecasts of the final condition of the cotton crop; they are liable to modification in future bulletins in the event of the occurrence of factors influencing the present crop prospects :—Percentage of normal average yield : Lower Egypt, 85; Middle Egypt, 90; Upper Egypt, 102; average whole of Egypt, 87. Estimated average yield (forecast): Lower Egypt, 3.08; Middle Egypt, 3.48; Upper Egypt, 4.94; average whole of Egypt, 3.22.

In Lower Egypt the weather conditions were such as to tend to produce more vegetative growth of the plants rather than the boll-formation. This was especially marked in Sakellarides. In Middle and Upper Egypt the condition of the crop is fairly satisfactory, having slightly improved in certain provinces since last month. Complaints of shortage of water, owing to irrigation of sharaqi lands, were received from a very few localities situated at tail ends of canals. The attacks of cotton worm were mild. Pink boll worm attacks are reported from all districts, but it is too early to forecast the probable degree of the attack. Slight attacks of wilt have also been reported.

The Southern Punjab Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of £5 per cent. on the ordinary stock, subject to English tax at 2s. 11d. in £, payable September 12.

SUDAN COTTON-GROWING.

The Gezira Scheme.

The following particulars are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for June :—

Berber Province.—Pumping station yields 1922-1923 season (in kantars, the figures in brackets showing the average yield per feddan): Mikeilab, 1,158 (3.94); Gendettu, 1,656 (2.68); Bouga, 1,965 (4.68). Gendettu return is the lowest on record. Delay in sowing resulted in the young plants being smothered in grass which sprang up after more than normal rains. The cotton only reached maturity after the cold weather had started, when growth was checked and boll-worm multiplied. Assal and White fly in February and March contributed to the low return. In addition, it is almost certain that no little of the pumping scheme cotton was received from Gendettu and handed in as Sakia cotton.

Dongola Province.—Ghaba Pumping Station report for May: Six kantars were received during the month, bringing the total yield up to 1,292 kantars, which equals a yield of 3.7 kantars per feddan. Nuri Pumping Station report for May: The average final yield of cotton is 4 kantars per feddan; considering that a good deal of the cotton plants were poor, a lot of the good cotton must have yielded 5 kantars.

Kassala Province.—The 1922-23 cotton crop totals 12,705 kantars of 315 rotls; details are as follows (in kantars) :—First class, 4,012; second class, 2,950; third class, 2,835; fourth class, 2,029; fifth class, 879. The average price of the first four classes per kantar was P.T. 412 up to June 5 and P.T. 346 from June 6-15, when the market closed. The fifth class was sold at P.T. 204, Government retaining the seed. Ginning was practically completed by the end of June, and camel transport has proved adequate to move the lint to Atbara and Suakin. Preparations for the new crop are well forward, and cotton stalks are being cut. The canals for the two new demonstration areas at Mekali and Hadaliya, which were only decided upon in February, have been completed. A preliminary allotment of land which it is anticipated will be watered at each canal has been made as follows (the figures representing feddans) :—Mekali, 980; Hadaliya, 1,230. The preliminary demand for land may be considered as satisfactory. Considerable areas have been held for distribution after the extent of flooding is known, particularly at Hadaliya. That land should have been so freely applied for shows confidence in the scheme.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar Cotton Crop: 3,725 kantars were sold during the month. The total yield amounts to 35,731 kantars of 315 rotls, with an average price of £E5.162 m/ms per class. A good average price was obtained and a more satisfactory crop than at one time seemed probable.

Blue Nile Province.—The late pickings on the Sudan Plantation farms were very satisfactory, and the final yields are approximately 3.5 kantars per feddan at Hosh, 4.3 at Tayiba, and 4.1 at Barakat. The total quantity of cotton ginned at the Wad Medani ginning factory was 41,315 kantars. About 70 kantars of American cotton were sent to the Port Sudan factory for ginning, and no doubt a little remains with the cultivators, so that it is probable

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that the total American cotton crop of the province was approximately 2,000 kantars of 315 rotls.

Gezira Scheme.—Very satisfactory progress has been made during the period both at Makwar and on the canalisation. The canalisation for the Wad El Nau scheme has been completed, and satisfactory pumping tests have been run.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Improved Demand.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 15:—

An improved demand has been in evidence during the past few days, further appreciation in the American markets, and comparative steadiness in our own, evidently having the effect of inducing those who have been running a little short to cover their requirements. The inquiry has been fairly evenly divided between Sakels and Uppers, and the basis in both growths has hardened slightly. In the former, the tightness of Strict Good Fair to Strict F.G.F. is beginning to become more pronounced, and it appears very doubtful if the local stock of these grades will hold out much longer than the middle of next month. A certain amount of reselling of Uppers for American account has been evident, probably about 1,000 bales being placed on the market from this source. The most reasonable conjecture of this cotton coming out at the moment is that one or two buyers at the other side purchased earlier in the season right into the autumn months and are now taking advantage of the ruling basis to get out and replace with new crops at a substantial discount. Outside growths, including the Sudan varieties, have been generally neglected. C.i.f. business continues to rule very quiet, and little interest is taken in new crops. Quotations of all grades of Sakels are raised 20 points, Uppers and Brown 10 points Estimated sales total 4,700 bales, against 1,800 bales (for four days) last week. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day, 16.40d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

A Depressing Week.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 18 states:—

General.—Fluctuations in the raw cotton market, coupled with uncertainty regarding the European outlook, have again militated against any improvement in the general state of trade. A thoroughly depressing week has been experienced, with scarcely any bright spots to redeem the general gloom. Manufacturers endeavour to console themselves with the knowledge that markets abroad must be extremely short of supplies, but there seems little prospect of any attempt to replenish them so long as the present uncertainties exist.

Yarn.—Makers continue to sell at prices below production costs rather than close their mills. Although the basic price scheme was a failure, there were at least some spinners who endeavoured to give it a fair trial and to abide by its conditions. These have now gone to swell the number of those whose selling price is "what they can get." Demand for Egyptian spinnings has fallen away considerably, and new transactions of any importance are rare. Shipments last month amounted to 9,514,400 lbs., as compared with 10,290,300 lbs. in June and 19,852,300 lbs. in July, 1922.

Cloth.—Markets abroad do not respond to the higher quotations necessitated here by the rise in raw cotton, and the amount of workable inquiry has probably been smaller than ever. There is an increasing number of traders who are now convinced that lower costs of production are indispensable to a revival of business. Shippers to Turkey and the Levant have been moderately active in securing small lots from stock, but the principal markets (India and China) give very inadequate support. Shipments last month were 316,083,600 sq. yds., against 300,669,100 sq. yds. in June and 443,609,800 sq. yds. in July last year.

Raw Cotton.—There has been an improved inquiry during the past week, and for all descriptions prices have advanced substantially. Reports on the crop condition in the United States are only moderate.

Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 15.76; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 16.45.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

The net earnings of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Company for the year ended March 31 totalled Rs.3,93,645, giving an available total of Rs.7,40,830. The directors recommend a dividend of 6 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 2½ per cent. on the preference shares for the second half-year, leaving Rs.3,12,080 to be carried over, against Rs.3,17,185 brought in.

Shahdara Light Railway.

The earnings of the Shahdara (Delhi)-Saharanpur Light Railway Company for the half-year ended March 31 were:—Coaching, Rs.2,72,794; goods, Rs.3,03,145; and sundries, Rs.4,520, making a total of Rs.5,80,459, compared with Rs.4,25,100 for the corresponding period of 1921-22. The net revenue was Rs.3,43,153, against Rs.1,43,693. Interest on sterling debentures at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum and London agency charges have been paid. The United Provinces Government moiety of surplus profits amounts to Rs.1,26,576, managing agents' commission Rs.43,830, and income-tax Rs.8,021, leaving Rs.3,69,143, of which the directors recommend a dividend (free of tax) of Rs.4/8 per share, equal to 9 per cent. per annum, the balance of Rs.3,01,643 being carried forward.

Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway Extension.

The report for the year ended March 31 states that as the net earnings of the extensions were insufficient to give a return of 5 per cent. on the capital expended, the difference will have to be made good by the Government out of their share of the earnings from the interchanged traffic, and the necessary claim for rebate, amounting to Rs.3,381, has been preferred against the E. B. Railway. The amount brought over from the net revenue account for the year was Rs.2,17,091, out of which Rs.1.09,375 was disbursed as an ad interim dividend, leaving Rs.1,07,716. The directors recommend a final dividend of Rs.1,07,716.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Safes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, invite tenders, including Customs duties and delivery free into the Central Stores in Cairo, for the supply of sixty-five small money safes. October 4. (D.O.T.)

Roumania.

Split Pins.—The Roumanian State Railways Administration invites tenders for the supply of 1,977,000 split pins (*goupilles d'arrêt*). September 19. (D.O.T.)

According to *Narodni Listy*, this year's hop yield at Zatec (Saaz), Bohemia, will be only about half that of last year.

A Reuter message from Constantinople states that the Anatolia Agency officially denies that any new issue of paper currency is in contemplation.

A commercial agreement between France and Czecho-Slovakia has been signed in Paris. The new agreement comes into force on September 1.

Czecho-Slovakia's exports to Italy in the first quarter of this year amounted in value to 30,000,000 lire. Italy's exports to Czecho-Slovakia were valued at 11,000,000 lire, the balance of trade in favour of Czecho-Slovakia being 19,000,000 lire.

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Stock and Share Markets.

MARKETS INACTIVE AND DULL.

Oils Better.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

As was to be expected in view of the political situation, a very variable tone has prevailed in the markets. Generally speaking, the tendency has been to weakness, and where changes have taken place in the majority of cases it has been in the downward direction. As is invariably the case in such periods, business has been very restricted, and the volume of transactions during the past week has been smaller than for some considerable period. At the week-end a more optimistic view prevailed with regard to the position, and this was reflected yesterday in something akin to firmness, the recovery in some cases being quite marked. Obviously once the position improves there will be a very general development of business, and I shall not be at all surprised if there are "booms" (in a minor key) in some of the markets. Certainly everything tends to that end. Prices in quite a number of directions could scarcely be lower than they are, and there will certainly be no lack of buyers once people know what is going to happen on the Continent.

There is little fresh to add to what I said last week with regard to pending loans—Near Eastern and otherwise. There is a report of a new proposal by a British group for a Greek loan for the refugees; probably it refers to a development in connection with a loan authorised by the League of Nations for that purpose. It is becoming more and more evident that Turkey will be able to do little without financial assistance, and something will probably be heard shortly of a loan.

Gilt-edged Dull.

A distinctly dull tone has prevailed in gilt-edged descriptions during the past week, though yesterday a firmer tendency was in evidence. Consols are ¼ down at 58¼, War Loan Fives have shed 3-16 at 101¼, the Conversion Loan is ⅛ lower at 79⅝, while Fundings are a point down at 92⅛. Indian stocks have shared in the general weakness. The Seven per Cent. Loan is ¾ down at 120, the 5½ per Cent. Loan is unchanged at 101¼, while the Three per Cent. Loan is ⅛ lower at 59⅞. There has been no great activity in Foreign Government securities, as the political situation has exercised a cramping effect on business. On the whole the tone in this group yesterday was fairly firm. French stocks have risen slightly. War Loan Fives at 25¾ are ¾ up, while the Four per Cents. at 20¾ have gained a point. Italian Rentes are unchanged at 18; while German Three per Cents. remain at 13s. Czecho-Slovak Eight per Cents. have been firm, and at 94¼ are ¼ up. In Near Eastern securities Turkish Unified have firmed up ¼ to 19.

Industrials Inactive.

If anything, there has been even less doing in the Industrial group during the past week than in the previous period. The tone, however, has remained fairly good, and price changes have not been of any great significance. Textiles have been variable, with Coats at 63s. 3d., at which they are 3d. down, and Courtaulds at 63s., at which they show a gain of 1s. 3d. Tobaccos have been one of the few really firm spots, Bats being 3s. 9d. up at 105s., while Imperial Tobaccos are 2s. 6d. up at 72s. 3d. Iron and Steel shares have been steady. Armstrongs are unchanged at 16s. 6d., Guest Keens have gained 3d. at 40s. 9d., while Vickers at 13s. are also 3d. up.

Shipping securities have again been inactive. P. and O. Deferred are a point up at 308, Cunards are unchanged at 18s. 9d., Furness Withys are 27s. 6d., while Khedivial Mails remain at 1⅝. Bank shares have been inactive. Chartered of India are ¼ down at 19½, National of India are unchanged at 44¾, P. and O. Banks are unaltered at 12¾, Imperial of Persias are ⅛ down at 6⅞, while National of Egypt are 22¾.

Oils Steadier.

While a very quiet tone has ruled in the Oil market, a rather firmer tendency has been in evidence than for some time past. It many cases, of course, shares had declined to such an extent that it was extremely unlikely that they would go any lower, and the very extent of the fall was bound to bring about a recovery. This is one of the markets that will first be affected by any general improvement in the political situation.

Burmahs are 1-16 up at 4 17-32, Anglo-Persians are unchanged at 3¼, Mexican Eagles are 6d. up at 20s. 7½d., Shell-Transport are 1-16 higher at 3 11-32, while Lobitos are unchanged at 5⅝. In the Egyptian group Gemsah are 1-16 down at 15-16, while Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-32 up at 1 5-32. In the Roumanian group Phœnix are 1-32 up at 1, Dacia Romanos are unchanged at 25-32, Steaua Romanas are 3d. down at 7s. 9d., while Hamilton's Concessions remain at 1s. 6d.

Egyptians Firm.

Egyptian securities are about the same. Aboukirs are unchanged at 17s. 6d., Beheras remain at 7¼, Egyptian Markets are 9d. up at 23s., Kassala Cotton is 3d. lower at 12s. 9d., New Egyptians are unaltered at 21s. 6d., while Union Foncieres have gained 1-16 at 2.

The Rubber Position.

Rubbers have been one of the few bright features in the market. The quotation for the new commodity has again begun to improve, and shares have not been slow to respond. Very little stock is about in this market, as the majority of shareholders are either permanent investors or are waiting to get out with a profit, and that means that there must be an appreciable advance in prices before there is any quantity of stock about. There is beginning to be talk of the possibility of a rubber shortage in a few years' time, but only the very optimistic would pay credence to such an eventuality. It may happen, but it would be very foolish to count on any such happening. But while discounting ultra-optimism, there is no getting away from the fact that the market position is becoming much brighter, and long-suffering shareholders are fully justified in looking forward to a return of a satisfactory nature at no distant date.

PHŒNIX OIL AND TRANSPORT.

The progress reports of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company, Ltd., and allied companies (including Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields, Ltd., and "Orion" Societate Anonima de Petrol) for July show that the total crude oil production was 7,712 tons, and the throughput of the refineries 5,305 tons, 241 tons being converted into lubricating oils.

Office Note.—During the month the boiler-house at Well No. 8 Moreni was struck by lightning, but the necessary repairs have since been effected and the well is now again flowing. Well No. 6 Moreni and Orion Well No. 550 have come into production during the current month.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 642—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Ratification of the Treaty.

Little or no exception can be taken to the course of the debate in the Angora Assembly on the Treaty of Lausanne. Fire-eating deputies had to have their say, and in turn those who represented frontier constituencies denounced the arrangements made in regard to Thrace, Syria, and Irak. When it came to the voting, however, the weight of opinion behind these extremist utterances was revealed by the preponderating vote—213 for and 14 against—in favour of ratification. In replying to the debate on behalf of the Government, Ismet Pasha appears to have been more in his element than he was at any time at Lausanne. He made a strong point in comparing the foreign policy of the Ottoman Empire, which had combined absolutism at home with unlimited confidence in some foreign Power, with that of the Grand Assembly, which aimed at giving the people as much control as possible over their own affairs and in their relations with other Powers adopted a position of complete independence. Not the least interesting part of the speech was the emphasis laid on the renewal of friendly relations with Great Britain, and Ismet Pasha coupled with it the hope that a satisfactory solution of the Mosul question would eventually be achieved.

Britain and the Peace Terms.

Lord Birkenhead, we may hope, will live long enough to regret his strange outburst on the Lausanne Treaty, and will have opportunity to consider the whole question more carefully before he indulges in further rhodomontades in the Autumn Session. His close study of the Treaty's provisions he will find far less helpful than a consideration of its antecedent conditions. He ignores the essence of the situation when he exclaims that "never in the history of this country has a defeated enemy wrested such terms from the conqueror." The statement may be true, but it does not apply to the present case, for the reason that never in the history of this or probably any other country has an overwhelming force, after inflicting defeat on an enemy, abandoned all that gave it superiority and deliberately encouraged its smallest unit to seek defeat at the hands of that beaten enemy. Lord Birkenhead writes as if he had not been a member of the Government that deliberately galvanised into life the defeated Turks and allowed them, in effect, to snatch victory out of defeat by leaving the issue between Turks and Allies in the hands of Greece as the Allies' only available champion. If Great Britain has made sacrifices in the Treaty of Lausanne, it is by way of amend for a former Government's handling of the Turkish question. The moral equation has now been restored in the Near East as far as Great Britain is concerned, and the least that ex-Ministers who had a share in the post-Armistice blunders can do is to accept the vindication of Britain's honour with the best grace they can muster.

The Evacuation of Constantinople.

Almost on the day that saw the ratification of the Lausanne Treaty by the Angora Assembly the evacuation of Constantinople by the Allied troops began. Their departure will be viewed with mixed feelings. The troops themselves, certainly the British contingents, will have no regrets at abandoning an incongruous position. It will be the foreign community on whom the chief loss falls, as they look forward with some misgivings to the uncertainties that the future has in store. We could wish that the occupation of Constantinople had meant more for the city and its inhabitants than merely a sense of security. Owing, perhaps, to the international character of the occupying force it did not avail itself of such opportunity as it had of exerting a salutary influence upon the life of the city. Apart from training a few individual policemen, who showed a special aptitude for their work, the Allies, as far as we are aware, made no attempt to reorganise the Turkish police and to make it an efficient force. The Turkish fire brigade continued to use its primitive methods side by side with the latest appliances of the British military fire brigade, and all that the latter can claim to have achieved for the future of the city is that they showed the way to better things and finally sold to an untrained body of men, when they left, their up-to-date equipment. As for the moral sphere, Constantinople threatened at one time, it is to be feared, to set its own seal upon its foreign guardians

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rather than to absorb a new atmosphere from them.

Strikes in Greece.

The Labour Party in Greece chose a wrong moment for a trial of strength with the State when supreme power is in the hands of a military committee. It has received short shrift, and the strike movement, for which widespread support among the trades unions had been secured, has rapidly collapsed. The Greek Labour Party has tried to advance too quickly, and it may well be that it has been led astray by an exotic communism. There is no greater individualist than the Greek, who indulges this characteristic to such an extent that business partnerships are the exception and single-man businesses the rule. Trade unionism in Greece owes its political existence to M. Venizelos; but owing to the latter's prolonged absence from the country after the Armistice, it mapped out for itself a political path that he can hardly have foreseen or desired, at the most impressionable period of its existence. It is, indeed, one of the charges brought against M. Venizelos by his political opponents that he encouraged Labour and endowed it with the power to become the problem or, as they would say, the nuisance that it has since proved. It is reported that the Greek Government has suspended the trade union law. This measure may help to break the strike, but it can hardly be intended as a permanent step. Although Bolshevist theories may have corrupted a number of Greek workmen, there can be little doubt that they have their grievances, which it is the duty of the Government to investigate patiently and sympathetically. Greek labour appears to have no recognised leader who can plead its cause with authority, and for this reason it is the more at the mercy of communist tactics.

The Late M. Daskaloff.

The murder of M. Daskaloff in Prague is a further reminder of the stormy setting in which Balkan politics are staged. M. Stambolisky's Minister of the Interior was at one time the best hated man in Bulgaria. Acting for the Prime Minister during the latter's frequent absences, M. Daskaloff contrived to stamp his own policy on Bulgaria. He was responsible for the persecution and prosecution of the Bourgeois politicians, and, if left to himself, would undoubtedly have driven his country far along the Bolshevist road. The precise relations between him and M. Stambolisky are largely a matter of conjecture. At first forming together a powerful combination, they drifted apart in regard to their political principles, as M. Daskaloff inclined more and more to the extreme left, and M. Stambolisky had his socialism tempered by contact with Western peoples. Towards the end of the Stambolisky régime there was almost an open breach between the two men, and it was recognised that M. Daskaloff's acceptance of the Prague diplomatic post was a face-saving device to cover his exclusion from the Ministry. In the opinion of many he had played the rôle of Stambolisky's evil genius too long. A man of violent methods, he has met a violent death, which can in no way be condoned, but which, it may be hoped, will play its part in warning Balkan politicians of the unwisdom of the abuse of political power.

The Irak Desert Route.

Prominence given to the misfortunes of a party of Arabs who attempted to motor from Damascus to Baghdad may create a wrong impression regarding the prospects of the weekly motor service that is expected to carry the Irak mails between Baghdad and Haifa from October 1. The Arabs were new to the route, were inadequately provisioned and trusted to the guidance of a chance native, who lost his way. The company which will be responsible for the weekly service is a British company employing British drivers; its cars have already performed the journey several times and it is to inaugurate the mail and passenger service with a fleet of new powerful cars, fitted with refrigerators and carrying an ample supply of provisions and water. The value to Irak of weekly communication with Europe cannot be overestimated. For mail matter it has had, thanks to the enterprise of the Royal Air Force, a fortnightly service by air; but the air service was never intended for civilian traffic and would in any case have been of restricted utility for the purpose owing to the limited passenger accommodation and the cost of the trip. It is an essential part of the mail service between Haifa and Baghdad that the desert stretch between Damascus and Ramadie should, at first, be covered in the hours of daylight, and to ensure this, organisation, good cars, and reliable drivers are necessary. The majority of people going to and from Irak will be attracted by the saving of at least a fortnight between Egypt and Baghdad, but although the desert can be shown to offer little danger or difficulty to a properly organised service travellers should be warned against lightly undertaking the desert journey "on their own," and against trusting themselves to unknown transport agents.

Safeguarding the Majority.

The most suggestive items of the recent news from India relate to the organisation of the Hindu Mahasabha, or, as we might say, super-society, designed to unite two-thirds of the population of the country for its own protection. At first sight the need for such a society is not very obvious, for in other countries it is usually minorities which feel the need for such distinctive organisations, but, judging from the extracts from speeches which have reached us, its bias, though not its declared object, is definitely anti-Moslem, and its appearance is one more indication of the exacerbation of religious feeling on which we have had to comment so frequently of late. It is, of course, conceivable that an organisation of the kind might accomplish much useful work, provided that its management was marked by sagacity and restraint, but, unfortunately, those qualities have not hitherto been conspicuous among the men who are at present in charge of the movement, and we must confess that we regard it with some apprehension, as being more likely to retard than accelerate India's painful progress towards national unification.

The Strength of a Nation.

From time to time facts and figures come from India which suggest that the educated classes, in their praiseworthy zeal to shoulder new burdens, have been overlooking the relation between burden and shoulder imposed by stern natural laws. A striking instance is furnished by the record of the last two examinations for the Civil Service which have been held in India. It was hoped that the candidates at these examinations would be picked men in every sense of the word, but two out of every seven have had to be rejected by the doctors as unfit for the work for which they were so eager. One can readily imagine the consternation which would be aroused by a similar proportion of rejections in this country, but there is as yet nothing to show that the Indian Universities are seriously perturbed. The test is by no means severe, and it may fairly be said that the men who fail to pass it are unfit for ordinary civil life. In many parts of India the colleges are overcrowded to an

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extent which seriously impairs their efficiency. Would it not be worth while for the authorities to weed out of the crowd the lads who will never be fit to give the country fair value for the education they have received?

Protection and Publicity.

There is a great deal of interest in the working of the new Tariff Board, which has just begun to hold its public sittings in India. Putting he expert economists on one side, ordinary people dislike protective tariffs chiefly because of the very unpleasant odour, which suggests that corruption is going on unseen, and India is now attempting to avoid this evil by using the antiseptic of publicity. The men who want their industry protected have to state their case formally before the Board in the presence of the reporters, and their opponents can meet them in the same way; the Legislature, in fact, is to be approached by the front door, and not by the kitchen staircase. It is probably a fortunate occurrence that the steel industry is the first to come before the Board. The steel-makers aver that they must either be protected or close down, the steel users retort that protection will involve their ruin, and, whatever may be the result of the clash of interests, it appears to be certain that the proceedings of the Board will have a very great educative value for the Indian public, which desires to get both steel and steel products cheap, and is inclined to distribute its distrust impartially among the sellers.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

A Slow-Moving Time.

Reparations still hang most heavily over us, and are weighing on Europe's soul almost like lead. It is a somewhat dismal and trying time. Other countries, which have a definite policy on this question of Reparations, are happier than we, who wearily chafe at our impotence. There is, one feels, a growing feeling in this country—by no means as yet a conviction—that our Government has not an adequate grip of the situation; certainly this policy, or rather, practice, of inaction suits very ill the minds of the electors. It was once sufficient, but it is not now sufficient, to point to the terrible legacy left to Mr. Baldwin's Administration by the Coalition Government, but people will not indefinitely consent to see Great Britain withholding her power to act. It may be sound, but it gets you little distance, to deprecate the use of the words "pro-French" or "pro-German"; for in this crisis it would appear that if you are not for France you are against her. Several politicians, we know, are against her; but the mass of the people is still solid against the German State. Perhaps it is a sad pass to which the world has come when the British principles of chivalry and generosity to a beaten foe are inadmissible or inapplicable; but at the moment it is quite certain that we and our intentions are well out in the cold. Nothing is being done, and nothing can be done, it appears, for at least some weeks; some in despair have gone even so far as to believe that nothing will be done until the demise of M. Poincaré—to such depths of unintelligence can impatience move us!

The "Daily Herald."

There is little doubt that we are turning more and more to domestic affairs, and that all our knowledge, political and particularly geographical, that we gained of foreign countries during the War, is fast vanishing. In the days when we knew where, for instance, Kharkov and Przemysl were, we should have noted the disappearance of the *Daily Herald* with a shrug, but the recent news of this impending event has assumed a certain, although undeserved, significance. It is now stated that unless the *Herald* can by September 30 next increase its 300,000 readers to half a million it will cease to exist. Now one is not quite so optimistic about Great Britain to suppose that it does not contain half a million enemies to itself, but one can still hope that the aims of the *Herald*, which, so admirable an organ in the beginning, has in later times become a journal which from any patriotic point of view was almost, although never quite, nefarious, will be unfulfilled. The *Herald* has recently been a supporter of many causes—all of them by no means lost causes—and the virtues of the Zaghlouls, the Gandhis, and the Lenins of this wicked world have in its eyes appeared monotonously complete. We shall in some ways regret the passing of a journal the literary pages of which could often be read and the betting advice acted upon, but, taken all in all, its disappearance will be a good thing for the working-man, who may not find truth in the capitalistic press, but will surely find more interesting things.

The Changed Face of London.

One of the strangest experiences to those who know London well is to travel through it in the deserted hours, say, early on a Sunday morning; the most familiar effects then assume almost eerie prominence, and in any case to be in the presence of a mighty soul in repose is moving. But, instead of this seeing London owned by Londoners asleep, you can now see London owned by non-Londoners very much awake. Hundreds of American visitors have returned home, but there is still a sufficient leaven of them among the thousands of provincial Britons to make the capital seem and sound strange. It is a little amusing to find in the hardy Cockneys who yet survive in London (having chosen a better time than the present for their holidays) a faint sense of patronage towards these urgent sons of Durham, Somerset, or Massachusetts. But they ask such simple questions (although at times their questions are unanswerable except by the learned Londoner—an oxymoron, by the way), they put such incredible faith in their guide-books, they enjoy everything so very much, that London takes them all to its kind and undiscriminating heart. Only the very poor or unfortunate can feel lonely in London.

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The "Laurentic's" Gold.

An extraordinarily good piece of work has been done by the Navy in salving almost all the gold from the wrecked White Star liner "Laurentic," which was torpedoed in 1917 with five millions bullion aboard. For years divers have been at work on the wreck, which lies in twenty fathoms of water, and a very horrible duty it must have been. It is right that publicity should be given to so patient and successful an effort, if only because of the tendency at the moment to appreciate the work of the Air Force at the expense of the Navy. Perhaps our islanders, who go into raptures at the sound of an aeroplane, do not esteem as they should the strength of their more silent guardians, but unless the future defence of Great Britain is proved indisputably to rest in the air, there is no doubt that the people of this country will soon revert to its traditional pride and confidence in the Navy.

The Price of Meat.

I never did like butchers, and if there is any class of men less lofty than dealers in frozen meat I have yet to meet them. Therefore, I always knew that the price of meat was ridiculously high, and now comes the Departmental Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture to confirm one's intuitive knowledge. This committee states that the retailer's net percentage profit is larger than it was pre-War, and the control of prices during the War has been maintained in the post-control period. Profits vary from 13 per cent. on pork to 48 per cent. on frozen beef. This, of course, has been "wangled" by the creation of a ring. The elimination of competition has meant that the consumer in this country has to pay, for instance, 9d. a pound for Australian chilled meat which in cold storage in this same country is 3¾d. a pound.

Gross profiteering in some trades may ennoble a man or those with whom he comes into contact, but not profiteering in meat. The sort of thing frozen-meat millionaires do is to buy up property in the West Country and endeavour to create a monopoly there, stopping up common rights-of-way as if they were some despicable butcher rivals.

Angling.

The increased popularity of angling is, one supposes, one of the minor psychological results of the War; but there is no doubt that far more indulge in this gentle pastime than before 1914. Every week-end you can see leaving London for places like Cookham, Staines, or Marlow placid men with rod, line, and basket. Crowds, literally, of fresh-water fishermen there seem to be now, whereas before the War angling was the most aristocratic of pursuits.

The issue between sea angling and fresh-water fishing will never be settled, like the issue between sea and fresh-water sailing. But it seems pretty certain that there is more sport in the one and more art in the other, though the sea people rightly look down on their dilettante brethren of the fresh water. And there are not many men who know thoroughly both the sea and, say, the Broads, who do not prefer the sea.

But wherever there is water, in land or off the coast, you can see the unlikeliest people pulling up the fish. Angling is, even if one is not skilled, a beautiful relaxation from the "care and money and trouble" of ordinary life, and that—the escape to simplicity from the wearing complexity of normal living—is, of course, the note of modern life.

Dinner and Tea.

Of all the differences that divide nations from one another, and, in a nation, classes from one another, none is more harassing or confusing than that relating to meals. Few Englishmen get really used to the ordinary Continental breakfast, any more than Americans appreciate our own scant breakfast. Again, there are people in this country who like to call the meal before tea dinner, and others who call it lunch; and there is much in a name. (One does not think of the lazy people who have but one meal before tea and call it "brunch.") To this staunch mid-day dinner class the Labour Party belongs; it has recently declared itself in favour of a high tea in the House of Commons, cutting out the dinner.

There is something to be said for the Labour members. Dinner of late years has been a rather arbitrary affair, with an obvious tendency to grow later and later. The "Nine o'Clock Revue," for instance, was expressly timed in the belief that it was impossible decently to finish dinner much before nine, though, in truth, there was nothing in this, because some people will always take longer than they ought over dinner, no matter at what time they begin. Democracy and the late dinner, in fact, do not seem to go hand in hand, and, since nothing can withstand the progress of democracy, it would appear that the end of the late dinner for other than the very well-to-do is at hand.

Regional Loyalty.

A pretty war is now being carried on between representatives of the State and of different localities in England. The public services, civil and military, have been marking out various sites for the development of their various schemes, and have threatened to take control of such places as Holmbury Hill, Lulworth Cove, and Avebury. Now, all these places are either of rare beauty or interest, and one is not quite so committed to the desecration of England as to allow the unintelligent State official blindly to encroach in the name of efficiency. That the public's feeling is against official encroachment on such places is beyond doubt; the Press alone is witness to that fact. No one would wish to deny to the public services room to develop, but they must be told where they can do so without destroying the yet fair face of the country. In the long run, beauty is more than efficiency and peace more than business, and Englishmen are slowly finding this out.

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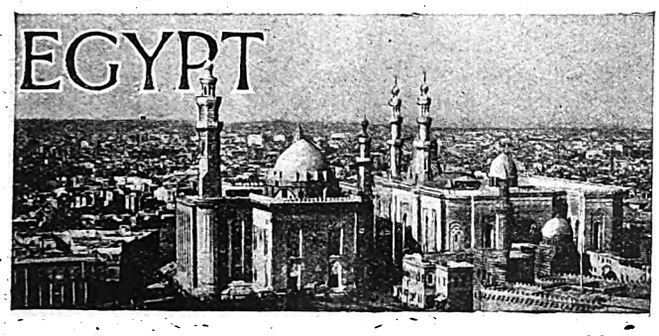
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 17.

L'Affaire Moheb.

Accustomed as we are to sensations, seldom have we had a week such as this. The "*affaire Moheb*" will long linger in the minds of local editors as a very succulent journalistic tit-bit. It all began with the Government's decision to buy cotton. The official announcement was made on the Alexandria Bourse at 12.30 p.m. on August 1. But from the time the Bourse had opened, two and a half hours earlier, there had been heavy buying by speculators, so much so that the price had been forced up a dollar in the course of the morning. When the Government's decision was announced it was obvious that once again the early bird had got the worm. Immediately there arose a demand for an inquiry as to how the news of the Government's intention had leaked out. The Minister of Finance was made the object of every kind of insinuation. His resignation a few days later merely added fuel to the fire.

Subjected to the bombardment of the whole Egyptian Press—for once united—Moheb Pasha last Monday gave an interview to a local newspaper. His statement consisted almost exclusively of accusations of the gravest nature against everybody whom he had occasion to mention. The principal charges were :—

(1) That the Prime Minister himself informed a local journalist of the Government's decision to buy cotton some two hours before the official announcement was issued.

(2) That the Prime Minister and the other Ministers were simply tools in the hand of the High Commissioner, and had agreed to legislation destructive of Egypt's rights, rather than offend Viscount Allenby.

(3) That the Prime Minister had consistently refused to agree to the many desirable projects, of great benefit to the country, put forward by Moheb Pasha.

(4) That he—Moheb Pasha—had only remained in the Cabinet in the hope of being able to act as a check on his colleagues' apparent determination to drag the country down to speedy ruin.

(5) That he eventually resigned because the Hon. E. Scott, Acting High Commissioner, ordered him to do so.

The effect of these statements may be imagined. If the local Press had been excited before, it was now delirious. Above all else did the alleged intervention of the Residency provoke the scribes.

Meanwhile, there had become generally known and accepted as true a version of the Acting-High Commissioner's remarks to Moheb Pasha, and his reason for taking any part in the affair, which reflected badly on the part played by the ex-Minister of Finance. This story was known to thousands of people throughout the country, and the general expectation was that it would be confirmed by an official statement from either the Ministry or the Residency. Pending official confirmation, every newspaper hinted that it knew all there was to be known about this mysterious affair, but none dared be the first to put into print what was in every man's mouth.

The next move was the issuing by the Residency of the following statement to a native paper :—

We have been for some time past *au courant* with intrigues directed at bringing about a Ministerial crisis. As a result of the numerous declarations that Moheb Pasha had recently made to us of friendship and loyalty towards us, Mr. Scott, when these incidents occurred last week, gave friendly advice to Moheb Pasha to resign. Mr. Scott even went to Moheb Pasha's house. He did all this without the knowledge of the Prime Minister. Moheb has rendered us many services, notably in defending our interests in connection with the compensation of foreign officials. Recently he has particularly tried to maintain amicable relations with us, and it was this that has led Mr. Scott to tell him, in friendly fashion, that all the rumours attaching to his name, in connection with the Government's intervention in the cotton market, were very regrettable, and to advise him to resign. So far as we are concerned, Moheb certainly did not embarrass us, but it seemed to us deplorable that a member of the Government should be accused of very many things, and Mr. Scott told him so. All this was done without the knowledge of the Prime Minister.

Press Comment on the Statement.

The general opinion of the statement may be represented by two quotations, the first from *Al Akhbar* : ". . . . Moheb, they say, has rendered us many services. Is it for that reason that they have asked him to resign? . . . . The example of Moheb should show to all those who think of following his footsteps that the British are never faithful in their friendships, and that, after having got all they can out of a man they abandon him to his fate." The second quotation is from the *Journal du Caire* : ". . . . The Residency has attempted to explain, but in fact it has explained nothing. In the insinuations published yesterday the malice towards Moheb Pasha is very clear, but they are only insinuations, and we take the liberty of telling the distinguished diplomatists at the head of the Residency that these insinuations are unworthy of them. Either Moheb is guilty of all that he is accused of or he is not. If he is, why not have the frankness to tell the public that this man, who poses as a victim, has abused the advantages of his official position and can no longer figure worthily among Egyptian Ministers? But if Moheb, on the other hand, is innocent, why then resort to underhand and mean methods of attacking him?"

The *Journal du Caire* goes on to specify exactly what it is of which rumour accuses Moheb Pasha. "Moheb is accused of having made a certain proposal to the director of an Alexandria bank. The enemies of the ex-Minister affirm that it is as a result of this that Mr. Scott advised Moheb to resign. If

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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this is true why not say so? The country has the right to know. Is it, then, so difficult to tell the whole truth?"

The Prime Minister Speaks.

All that, it might have been thought, was enough to go on with, but a new sensation was provided yesterday, in the form of an interview given by the Prime Minister to *Al Mahroussa*. After saying that it was not in the general interest to publish the entire truth about the Moheb affair, Yehia Pasha went on to remark that the whole of Moheb Pasha's statement was untrue. Moheb Pasha, while a Minister, had constantly interfered with matters not concerning him, to the great irritation of his colleagues, for which reason the Prime Minister had asked Moheb Pasha to resign. Moheb Pasha had replied that he was a poor man and could not afford to give up his portfolio. Yehia Pasha, therefore, arranged to transfer Moheb to the Ministry of Education, but the other Ministers held a meeting and afterwards told the Prime Minister that they could not remain in a Cabinet of which Moheb Pasha was a member.

Yehia Pasha denied that he had given any journalist advance information of the Government's decision to buy cotton, and, with regard to the interference of Mr. Scott, which, said Yehia Pasha, he much disliked, Moheb Pasha had never said to the Prime Minister that Mr. Scott had *ordered* him to resign. What Moheb Pasha told Yehia Pasha was that Mr. Scott had advised him to resign, to which Yehia Pasha replied that, much as he disliked this interference, it had nothing to do with the Cabinet's decision to ask Moheb to resign. The Prime Minister declared that, so far from his having refused to agree to proposals beneficial to the country which had been put forward by Moheb Pasha, the latter had never evolved any scheme of benefit to anyone.

So there the matter stands. Everybody has had his say, and nobody has spared anybody's feelings. On the Prime Minister's own admission, the whole truth has not been told, but, since everybody thinks that he knows the whole truth, this does not make much difference. Possible further developments are suggested by Yehia Pasha's having summoned Moheb Pasha from Cairo to Alexandria on Tuesday, and by a lengthy Cabinet meeting yesterday, to which the Procureur-General was summoned, and regarding whose proceedings nothing has been disclosed.

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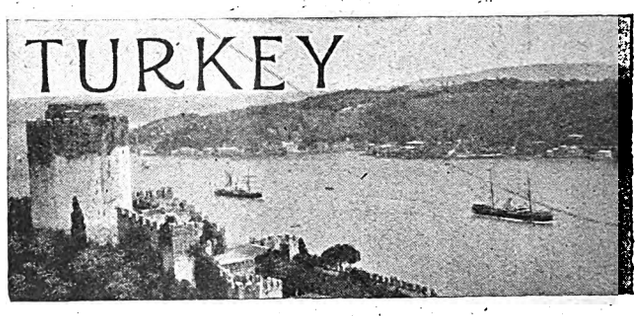

Constantinople, August 21.

The New Ministry.

The epoch-making session of the new Grand National Assembly has begun, but the Assembly has not yet got into its stride, it has formed its various commissions, which are doing the preliminary work in preparation for the legislation which is to be introduced later.

Apart from the urgent question of the ratification of the Peace Treaty, which is to be the first important act, interest has been concentrated more upon personalities than upon measures. The constitution of the new Ministry provided no great surprises. The chief feature is the exclusion of Reouf Bey, the late Premier; he is succeeded by Fethi Bey, who retains his portfolio of the Interior. Fevzi Pasha remains Chief of the General Staff, and Ismet Pasha continues to be Foreign Minister. This Cabinet would appear to have been formed on a narrow basis, and to suffer from the exclusion of a number of prominent men whose presence in the Ministry might have been expected on the strength of their recognised ability regardless of their political predilections.

The Press opinions upon the new Government are generally negligible, except those of the *Tanin*, which has long been a voice calling in the wilderness for moderation and sanity. The *Tanin* has now been joined by the *Tevhid*, and both criticise the new Ministry. The *Tanin* mocks at the Premier's declaration that his new Cabinet is a Business Cabinet; it says that, if the new Ministers had been strangers, it would feel inclined to "wait and see"; but, having seen them at work, it has its unfavourable opinions already formed. The *Tevhid* strikes a different and more fundamental note when it points out that the object of the new Cabinet is to bring about a vast social evolution in the country. The country is unanimous in longing for such an evolution, but where differences have arisen is in the method of carrying these schemes into execution.

Mustapha Kemal Pasha's Speech.

The inaugural address of the President of the National Assembly was somewhat disappointing. Mustapha Kemal Pasha traversed a great deal of old ground about the rise and success of the National movement, and poured out a moult of honest indignation at the atrocities to which the Turkish nation had been subjected; but when one looks for some ideas concerning the peaceful de-

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velopment of the future, there is nothing to be had but some very stony bread. Pride of place in the plans for the future is accorded to the organisation of an efficient army. Such an attitude may well be regarded as a bad omen. After the experiences of the military adventures of the last eleven years, one would really have thought that for a space at least the Turks would consider the advisability of turning their swords into ploughshares and devoting their main energies to the works of peace.

Greek Refugees.

There is one question which is pressing for immediate solution—namely, the disposal of the thousands of refugees, the balance of those who have been uprooted from their secular homes in Anatolia and whose final destination has not been settled. In and around Constantinople, in Selimie Barracks at San Stefano, and on Prinkipo there are about 14,000, while at Samsoun there still remain some 16,000, for whom no provision has been made after September 15. Two ships have been sent from Greece to Constantinople to embark 7,500 of those who are quartered here for Salonika and Kavalla, and it is hoped that arrangements will be made as soon as possible for the balance remaining here; but what will happen to those who are left at Samsoun after the American Near East Relief has closed down in the middle of September is dreadful to contemplate. Six thousand of them are said to be destitute, and unless they are removed to Greece or elsewhere before the winter sets in they are doomed to perish.

The Evacuation.

Preparations for evacuation are proceeding methodically. The Allied Police, as a civil organisation, have ceased to function; a collection of transports has arrived in the harbour; the Turkish exchange is rapidly depreciating; the curio and carpet shops are advertising a fresh supply of bargains in souvenirs, and the police are trying to disarm the civil population now that they alone are responsible for public order and security. The odds against the infliction of prohibition in this city are growing steadily higher. That is the budget of local news.

August 14.

The Constantinople Golf Club.

The British Colony, although it looks at the future with some excusable anxiety, is already beginning to make arrangements to provide itself with some means of relaxation on the dull days that are coming after the evacuation of the troops. The military have since the Armistice constructed an excellent golf course at Mashlak, about two and a-half miles from the north edge of the city, and now a civilian golf club has been formed to take over this 18-hole course, which is 5,325 yards long, and is provided with a good club house with all facilities. The provisional committee has shown commendable enterprise in arranging for transport to and from the course, always one of the principal difficulties in this city, which covers an enormous area and is so poorly supplied with means of communication.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 20.

The Little Entente and Poland.

Parliament is closed, and most of the Ministers are absent from Bucharest on holiday this month. The chief event of political interest has been the meeting at Sinaia of representatives of the Little Entente and of Poland, whose discussions appear to have been fully recorded in the English daily Press. Commercial treaties have already been concluded with Roumania by Czecho-Slovakia and Poland, and at Sinaia questions relating to trade and transport facilities were further discussed with the representatives of these two countries. One of the results of these discussions appears to have been that the Roumanian Government (according to the Bucharest Press) has promised to begin at once to pay off its debt to the Skoda locomotive factory in Czecho-Slovakia. This factory has had large orders, chiefly for the repair of locomotives for the Roumanian State Railways, and has a large outstanding account to its credit.

M. Duca is said to have made every effort to bring Poland into the Little Entente, but without success so far, partly on account of the political disagreements which still exist between that country and Czecho-Slovakia, and partly because Poland demanded, as a condition of her joining, that the other signatories of the Entente should undertake to come to her aid in case of an attack upon her on the part of Russia. This was felt to be too heavy a charge in view of the other responsibilities of the Little Entente, and Czecho-Slovakia was particularly decided in her refusal of this condition. Very little seems to have been definitely settled at Sinaia, and the conference is to be continued in the autumn at Belgrade or Prague.

Other news from Roumania will be found on page 224.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, August 16.

The Oil Question.

Captain Shearme, the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's representative, arrived back in Tirana from England on Sunday, there being a few outstanding points requiring settlement before the concession goes before Parliament next week. The Government appear to be a little nervous as to the attitude Parliament will take with regard to the concession, mainly because of the counter-proposals put forward by the Standard Oil Company. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company, however, holds the field, as they were granted the concession two years ago, subject only to ratification by Parliament.

Islam in Albania.

Not long since, following on the example of the Orthodox Church, a Congress of Moslems of both the Sunni and Bektashi persuasions was convoked and the complete independence of the Mohammedan religion in Albania was proclaimed. The Khalif has been altogether repudiated. Where prayers are said in Albanian no reference is made to him

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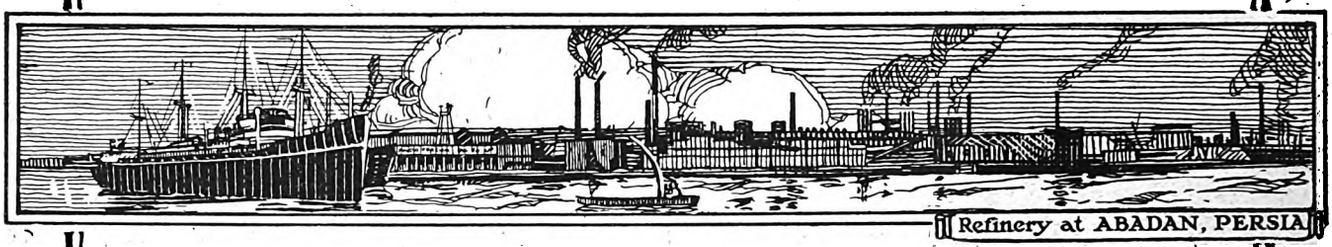

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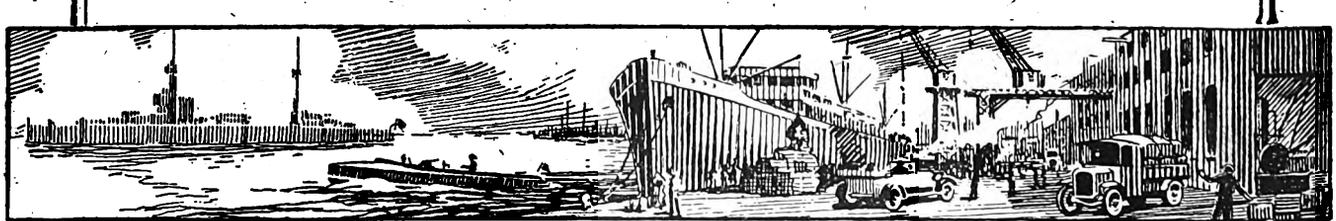

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any longer, and only in certain passages of the Arabic text where this is used does he appear to be still mentioned. The question of the form of prayer to be used in the Mosques is now under consideration.

The Government have not only approved of the decisions taken by the Congress, but have formally recognised the Mussulman High Council, appointed by the Congress, as the supreme Mohammedan authority in Albania. One of the first acts of this Council has been to give definite permission for women to go about unveiled in public. Not many women, however, have as yet taken advantage of this permission, which applies in practice only to the towns; for in the mountain districts it has long been the custom for Albanian Moslem women to uncover their faces.

The Orthodox Church.

The future of the Orthodox Church in Albania depends on more complicated factors. Autocephalism has been formally demanded; but the delegation which waited on the Patriarch of Constantinople to obtain his sanction has returned without having achieved its object. The Patriarch is not prepared to do more than sanction "autonomy," and the extent of this has not been clearly defined. It remains to be seen what steps will now be taken by the Orthodox Churchmen in Albania. There is said to be a strong current of opinion, mainly among the women, in favour of remaining under the headship of the Patriarch. On the other hand, most of the clergy seem to stand for complete auto-cephalism, while there is a small but (so say its adherents) growing movement in favour of union with Rome. Such a solution, it is urged, would unite the Christians of Albania into one body and procure for the State the interested support of the Vatican. It must be said, however, that public opinion at present would, on the whole, be opposed to such a step.

PERSIA.

Teheran, July 21.

Persia and Irak.

In spite of the British Minister's untiring efforts during the past fortnight to arrive at a settlement of the situation which has arisen from the arrival of the Persian priests at Kermanshah from Nejef and Kerbela as a protest against the action of the Irak Government in deporting a leading Persian high priest for interfering with the elections, as mentioned in my last letter, no solution has yet been found to enable the priests to return to Irak. Feeling against the British continues to run high, and numerous telegrams of protest reach the Persian Government from all parts of the country. On Wednesday some 6,000 people assembled outside the telegraph office in Kazvin as a demonstration on behalf of the priests, but the incident passed quietly.

Sir Percy Loraine, therefore, in order to expedite a settlement, suggested to the Irak authorities that he should proceed to Baghdad by air to discuss matters on the spot, and attempt to reach a settlement. This being agreed to, the Royal Air Force placed two aeroplanes at Sir Percy's disposal, and the machines, with the approval of the Persian Government, which is naturally as anxious as the British to arrive at a satisfactory solution, landed here yesterday. They are the ordinary service battle biplanes, D.H.9 A type, and for this occasion they were, of course, unarmed. They left Baghdad at about 5.45 yesterday morning under Squadron-Leader Bowman, D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., and arrived here on the landing ground prepared some two miles to the south of the town at midday, thus taking about six hours and a quarter to cover the distance of some 500 miles, rather a slow rate owing to bad visibility between Hamadan and Teheran.

They were the first aeroplanes to effect a non-stop flight from Baghdad to Teheran. They return to Baghdad to-morrow with Sir Percy Loraine, who was anxious to waste no time, and will bring the Minister back when his visit to Baghdad is satisfactorily concluded.

Meanwhile the Mullahs remain in Kermanshah, whither the Shah has sent Prince Azad es-Saltaneh and Hakim ed-Dowleh, Minister of Public Instruction, to welcome them on his behalf.

General News.

M. Shumyatski, who has been acting as Chargé d'Affaires at the Russian Legation since the departure of M. Rothstein, has been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary, and has presented his credentials as such to the Shah. The conferring of the honour was made the occasion of a reception at the Russian Legation.

Khoshtaria, who was much in the public eye last year as being the "concessionaire" of the original Northern Oil Concession before the War, has returned to Persia from Russia, and is now back in Teheran. It is reported that he intends to open a private banking concern as representative of a Russo-Persian commercial company, with branches in the provinces.

Dr. Ryan, the American municipal expert, who recently proceeded to Turbat-i-Haidari to report on the extent of the damage caused by the recent earthquake, has returned, and states that the original reports were much exaggerated. He estimates the death-roll at some 900, and the damage caused at some 60,000 tomans (about £12,000).

July 22.

The aeroplanes with Sir Percy Loraine reached Baghdad before noon to-day; they left here at 5.30, and stopped a short time in Kazvin.

July 12.

The Service of Foreigners.

The engagement of another American adviser was approved in place of Dr. Bogart, who is relinquishing his appointment at the Bank of Persia (late Russian Bank) very shortly, and returning to America. On the other hand, the Mejliss has made drastic reductions in the number of European employees in the service of the Government, and the services of many Belgians, Russians, Swedes, and two British subjects, who have been employed in different Government departments for some years past have been dispensed with, and their contracts terminated. The principal exceptions were the Swedish Chief Organiser of the Police and the Belgian Administrator-General of Customs, and Director-General of Posts, whose contracts were renewed for further short periods. The dismissal of these European employees at very short notice was most unexpected, and most of them are in great distress owing to the non-receipt of any gratuity or pension and their inability to find employment in other directions in this country.

Relief for Turbat.

The Mejliss has authorised a credit of 50,000 tomans (over £10,000) for the relief of the people

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rendered homeless and otherwise affected by the recent earthquake in the neighbourhood of Turbat-i-Haidari. Subscriptions have been started throughout the country for the same purpose, and the American Red Cross Society has sent a donation of 50,000 dollars through the Persian Minister at Washington. In this connection, Dr. Ryan, the American expert engaged for the Teheran Municipality, has proceeded to Turbat to investigate the extent of the damage caused, and to draw up plans for rebuilding and repairing the devastated parts. He told me that there was a question of opening an international relief fund, and that therefore an authoritative report was necessary before inviting subscriptions.

The situation round Turbat has recently been further aggravated by extensive floods following a severe rainfall, which are reported to have washed away much property and to have caused a certain number of deaths. A village near Nishapur, to the west of Meshed, has also been the scene of a flood which has washed away most of the houses.

Pen and Sword in Persia.

The newspaper *Vatan* the other day published an article attacking the military and criticising the Minister of War. The next day, acting presumably under the latter's instructions, two officers and a number of men entered the office of the editor, dragged him out, and, after beating him nearly to death, left him in the street, whence he was removed to hospital, where he now lies in a critical state. In this country, apparently, the pen is not mightier than the sword.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

LANDS OF THE THUNDERBOLT.

"LANDS OF THE THUNDERBOLT: SIKHIM, CHUMBI AND BHUTAN." By Lord Ronaldshay. (London: Constable and Co. 16s. net).

This is no ordinary book of travels, for it contains a record not only of the distinguished author's travels in Sikhim, Chumbi ,and Bhutan, but some important chapters on Buddhism and special mention of Lamaism (a comparatively modern development of Buddhism), which are so admirably clear and free from all semblance of pedantry as to appeal to scholars, to students, and, in fact, to all readers. For the origin of the title the reader is referred to the Preface, where it is explained that one of the chief emblems of Guru Rimpoché, the founder of Lamaism, was the *vajrah* or *dorje*, or symbol of the thunderbolt of Indra: here it may be explained that Rimpoché is regarded in those countries as a more important person than even Buddha himself.

The book commences with two chapters which deal with Bengal, an essentially flat country, which are introduced doubtless by way of contrast to what is to follow, i.e., a description of the highlands which include the Everest and Kanchinjunga groups. Similarly the description of the coming of summer in the torrid clime of the Gangetic delta is inserted skilfully by way of offset to the subsequent pages, which contain an account of life in a country that lies often above the limit of the snow-line. Several very valuable chapters, descriptive of Buddhism, follow, which cannot be even summarised, much less given adequate treatment, within the limits of a brief review.

Chapter VIII. tells of the author's journey into Sikhim by the path via Sandakphu Phillut, across the Singalela Pass to Pemiongchi: the description of the last mentioned and its celebrated monastery, with a most glorious view from its portico of Kanchinjunga, also those of Tashiding and Sanga Chelling, are admirably done. In these monasteries, as, indeed, elsewhere in the neighbourhood, are to be seen images that show the extent of the "wave of eroticism," which, starting possibly from Kamakhya, where is the great Tantric shrine, passed over this corner of India centuries after the founding of the Buddhist faith, and which may have helped in causing its disappearance from the plains of India. But the author went much farther afield than Sikhim, for Chapter XIII. describes his *trek* to the far-off Chumbi valley (a name familiar to us in the Tibet Expedition of 1904), and Chapter XVIII. the journey to the Gochak La (16,430 ft.). One of the most interesting chapters is that dealing with the author's extended tour through Bhutan, which before was, to Europeans, a practically unknown country; there is also an account of the events which led up to the Bhutan War of 1864-65, and of the subsequent rise to power of the present ruler Sir Uggyen Wangchuk, under whose capable and enlightened administration what was formerly a State inhabited by barbarous savages now sends its sons to Darjeeling and Kalimpong to be educated in our schools. The present Maharaja is a fast friend of the British Government and seconded by the late Bhutanese agent to Great Britain, Uggyen Kazi, has shown himself most anxious to develop the resources of his country and to extend trade between Bhutan and British India.

Lord Ronaldshay has on pp. 185-186 some remarks descriptive of his feelings on leaving Darjeeling for the last time which will appeal to many of us who have served in India, specially those who have resided in that queen of Indian hill stations.

The book contains some very beautiful photographs, which are the work of the distinguished author; it has an excellent index, and is moderately priced.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Heber's Journal: A Selection." With an Introduction by P. R. Krishnaswami. (London: Humphrey Milford. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Josh Jennings at Luxor." By Captain R. W. Campbell. (London: Nash and Grayson. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Official Medical History of the War. Pathology." Edited by Major-General Sir W. G. Macpherson, K.C.M.G., C.B., LL.D.; Major-General Sir W. B. Leishman, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., LL.D., and Colonel S. L. Cummins, C.B., C.M.G., LL.D. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 21s. net.)

"Studies in Palestinian Customs and Folklore. III. Modern Palestinian Parallels to the Song of Songs." By St. H. Stephan. 5 piastres; "The Journal of the Palestine Oriental Society." Vol. III., No. 1 and Vol. II., No. 4. (Jerusalem: The Palestine Oriental Society.)

The Times Riga correspondent says that it is reported in the Soviet Press that the Yugoslav Government has expressed its readiness to renew trade with Soviet Russia even before the establishment of official diplomatic intercourse.

The Palestine Arab Delegation made a further application on August 22 to the Cabinet Committee on Palestine for a hearing to enable it to put before it the views of the Palestine Arabs on the future Government of the mandated territory.

As a result of the post-mortem examination and the inquest on the death at Alexandria of "Princess" Abbas Halim, who was found shot on August 24, a verdict of "Accidental death" was given. It was presumed that the deceased accidentally shot herself while cleaning an automatic pistol.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

August 30 (New Style).
August 17 (Old Style).
Moharrem 17, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 18, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Persian Minister left London on August 26 for Aix-les-Bains.

The Rajah and Rani of Pudukota have arrived at Aix-les-Bains from Deauville.

Samy Pasha, of Cairo, has arrived in London, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Aga Khan, who is touring in France, will return to London on September 30.

Lord Headley, who went on a pilgrimage to Mecca, will return to London in a fortnight.

Mr. P. A. Burlumi has returned to London from Greece.

Miss Gertrude Bell, Oriental Secretary to the Government of Irak, left for Baghdad last Thursday.

The Bulgarian Government has appointed M. Popoff Bulgarian Consul-General in Alexandria in place of M. Doriff, who is returning to Sofia.

Count Ignazio della Croce-Dojola arrived in Alexandria early in August from Cairo, and assumed his duties as Consul-General of Italy.

M. Yanapoulos, formerly First Secretary at the Greek Legation, who has been appointed Consul at Malta, left London on August 22 to take up his post.

General Sir Charles Monro, Governor of Gibraltar, expects to leave England early in September to take up his new post.

The King of Roumania arrived in Venice a week ago, where he was joined by the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess of Roumania, who had been paying a short visit to the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess Cyril of Russia at their villa at St. Briac.

The following are the names of the successful candidates for the Sudan Political Service who were selected by the Sudan Selection Board, which met in London last June: E. D. M. Batty, E. A. V. de Candole (Worcester College, Oxford), B. V. Marwood, H. A. Nicholson (Trinity College, Oxford). A. S. Oakley (C. C. C., Oxford), E. W. Thomas (Cambridge), and E. J. N. Wallis (University College, Oxford).

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, and formerly Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean and British High Commissioner in Constantinople, met with a serious accident on August 24 when motoring in Lanarkshire. He was conveyed in an unconscious condition to the Lockhart Hospital, Lanark, where he has since been lying. The latest bulletin states that he has received severe injuries to the head, but the improvement in his condition has been maintained. On Monday he was reported to be partially conscious.

On the occasion of the fifty-eighth anniversary of the birthday of King Ferdinand of Roumania, on August 24, Sir John Hanbury-Williams, on behalf of King George, conveyed to M. Radu T. Djuvara, the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, a cordial message of congratulation, which was subsequently telegraphed to the King of Roumania at his summer palace at Sinaia. Cards were left at the Roumanian Legation on behalf of the Prime Minister, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the Lord Chamberlain, and the State Chamberlain. The Roumanian flag was flown throughout the day at the Legation, the Consulate, and the Roumanian Bank in London.

NEW POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TURKEY.

The Postmaster-General announces that on the evacuation of Constantinople by the Allied troops, the British Post Office in Turkey will be closed, and postal packets (including parcels) addressed to that country will thereafter reach the addresses through the Turkish Post Office.

On and from the 30th inst., the dispatch of parcels for Turkey by the direct sea route to Constantinople will be suspended until arrangements can be considered with the Turkish Post Office. Parcels for Constantinople and other places in Turkey will, however, be dispatched via Switzerland and Constanza. The postage by this route will be 4s. 3d. for a parcel not exceeding 2 lb.; 5s. 6d. for a parcel between 2 lb. and 7 lb., and 6s. for a parcel between 7 lb. and 11 lb., with additional postage of 6d. on any parcel addressed to a place in Turkey-in-Asia. Parcels may be insured up to £40. It is advisable that parcels should not be dispatched to British troops in Turkey during the period of evacuation.

There will be no change, for the present, as regards parcels for H.M. ships in Turkish waters. These will continue to be accepted for dispatch via Malta at present rates of postage, namely, 1s. 3d. up to 3 lb.; 2s. 6d. between 3 lb. and 7 lb., and 3s. 3d. between 7 lb. and 11 lb.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1923.

GREEK POLITICS.

A statement by M. Venizelos on Greek politics inevitably commands attention. When, therefore, he urges that the most pressing need of Greece at the present time is a cessation of civil strife and restoration of the normal functioning of the Constitution, it may be taken for granted that in his opinion Greek internal feuds have assumed serious proportions, while he recognises that constitutional government is entirely in abeyance. Independent evidence of the seriousness of the quarrel between Greek political parties is given by the Athens correspondent of *The Times*, who states that the feud between Royalist and Venizelist "is no mere matter of words; it is something vital, responsible for the wrecking of many Greek homes, for the breaking off of betrothals, and for the dissolution of business partnerships." He adds that it is difficult for an Englishman to conceive the intensity of this feeling which divides the whole of Greece into two hostile camps; and to illustrate it he cites a Royalist who claims that there are "thousands of others" who, like himself, have sworn that the mourning they now wear will one day be dyed red "with the blood of the Venizelists." To anyone who has made an impartial examination of the position in Greece it is well known that the picture is not overdrawn. The feud dates from 1916. Four years ago, when M. Venizelos was in power and King Constantine an exile, the cessation of civil strife, for which the former now pleads, was urged in the columns of The Near East, and it was suggested that, unless M. Venizelos elected to bring back King Constantine on terms, the latter's return might take place in his despite and lead to the driving of Greece's greatest statesman into the political wilderness. In those days M. Venizelos or his advisers—for owing to his prolonged absence from the country he was compelled to rely upon others for his reading of the trend of Greek affairs—affected to regard the Royalist following as negligible, and the need for the cessation of civil strife, so obvious to the onlooker, was not appreciated. The pendulum has swung violently in Greece since then; King Constantine was brought back, and M. Venizelos left the country—never, in all probability, to return; even the revolution that deprived the King of his throne a second time failed to make Greece safe for M. Venizelos. It did, however, as a result of the execution of M. Gounaris and his fellow Ministers, fan the flames of hatred to a white heat and produce a condition of things which, if prolonged indefinitely, might involve the country in complete ruin.

Where passions are easily aroused, they can usually be relied upon to die down with almost equal rapidity, and with the exercise of tact by those now in authority or prominent in Greece, the situation need not have been regarded as hopeless. It is, however, unfortunate that M. Venizelos has chosen to couple his appeal for a cessation of civil strife with a statement of modified support for a republican movement in Greece. Nothing is more calculated to cause the Royalists to raise their standard high and close their ranks, for they know that the Venizelist party cannot be relied upon to show the reasoned moderation and dispassionate caution of which its leader is capable. M. Venizelos denounces any idea of enforcing by violence a republic on Greece, but he does not consider the Greek people as still immature for a purely republican régime. He finds that "the creation of a republican party destined gradually to enlighten the people on the real meaning of a pure republic, and to constitute an oppositional force, looming in the mind of the existing régime and restraining it from constitutional trespasses, is quite natural." Unless they feel deterred by the Royalist's oath, this pronouncement might well prove sufficient to transform the Venizelist extremists into an avowed republican party, which, if it could claim any considerable numbers, would intensify and perpetuate the political bitterness in the country.

It remains to be seen, however, how many Greeks will be content to follow an absent leader for all time, and to commit themselves to the uncharted seas of republicanism without any prospect of his immediate guidance. In its early stages Venizelism represented a movement for which there was undoubtedly room in Greece. There had been a tendency previously to restrict social position and political power within the narrowest limits. For a long time an increasing number of people who felt themselves qualified for a place in the sun in a democratic State had been knocking at the gate of caste privilege. On the arrival of a new man in M. Venizelos they rallied instinctively to his banner, and his political wisdom and statesmanship gave promise that his followers would play an important part in winning Greece to a policy of Liberalism. The Imperial aspirations and foreign cares with which M. Venizelos allowed himself to be overwhelmed as a result of the Great War left no time for the elaboration of a Liberal policy. Venezelism in the hands of hurriedly selected subordinates became, during the absence of M. Venizelos, in no way distinguishable from any previous phase of Greek politics, except possibly for a greater abuse of power. When M. Venizelos returned to Athens the mischief had passed beyond his control. It is time now that the country rid itself of its seven years' curse. We had hoped that the Revolutionary Committee, by maintaining itself above parties and politics, would spare the Venizelists the odium of the execution of the Ministers, and by withdrawing into private life with their responsibilities on their own heads, would leave Royalists and Venizelists to realise that only by an end being put to their vendetta could Greece rise superior to the ills that had come upon her. But the Committee is also concerned to make Greece safe for itself, and M. Zaimis has probably hit upon the only possible solution of the problem by appealing to the Venizelists to abstain from taking part in the elections as a party and to submerge themselves in his own Party of Reconciliation until Greek politics can be remodelled on healthier and more profitable lines. If M. Venizelos could have endorsed this appeal, it might have proved better for Greece than to have a further ingredient in the form of republican doctrines thrown into the cauldron of civil strife, which, in the history of Greece, will always be associated with the name of Venizelos.

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CONDITIONS IN ABYSSINIA.

Our Correspondent in Addis Abeba writes, under date July 20 :—

The Internal Situation.

The rainy season has set in, with the usual result that, to the outward eye, the internal politics of the country are in suspense. The rains begin to slacken about the middle of September, and by the Feast of the Cross *(Maskal)*, which occurs during the last week of that month, they are usually over. In former days the Government viewed the approach of *Maskal* with a certain amount of apprehension, and with reason. In Abyssinia there is a season for going to war, just as there is a hunting season in England. This season begins immediately after the rains, when the wells and water-courses are full, forage and grain are abundant, and man and beast can subsist on the countryside. Moreover, it is the custom, as part of the ceremonial attaching to the celebration of the feast, to hold parades of large bodies of troops. It follows, therefore, that, if trouble is brewing against the Government, it is more likely to show itself at *Maskal* than at any other time.

No trouble, however, is to be expected this year. The Shoan Government are probably in a stronger position at the present time than they have been since the death of the Emperor Menelik. Lij Eyassu, the lad appointed by Menelik to succeed him, was deposed in 1916, but at that time the Central Government were unable to lay him by the heels. So long as he remained at liberty he was a cause of unrest and a source of anxiety to the Government. Fortunately, the chiefs of Tigré, in the North, with whom Lij Eyassu had taken refuge, were induced two years ago to surrender him to the Government, and his confinement has removed the chief danger to the peace of the country.

But though the Government are safe from attack, it is not to be supposed that there are no clouds on the horizon. To be safe from attack does not imply, for example, that the Government can with safety attempt to administer the country in a manner contrary to tradition or to the ideas of their followers. And yet this is exactly the hazardous experiment which they are likely to be driven to make.

The Slavery Question.

The pressure comes from without. The interest taken in Abyssinia by the outside world, the growth of which was arrested by the outbreak of the War, is being rapidly reawakened. Abyssinia is being rediscovered, with the result that people in Europe and America are seriously concerned at the misgovernment of the country which has been thereby revealed. There is a demand for investigation and reform which the Powers and the League of Nations, whose attention has been drawn in particular to the question of slavery, cannot ignore. The Abyssinian Government are aware of this, and would willingly try to set matters right if they knew how. But this is not a case of "Where there's a will there's a way." The difficulties are enormous. Abyssinia never has been administered in the sense understood in civilised countries. If the Government tries to interfere with the customs of centuries, they may raise a storm beyond their power to quell. The lesser chiefs and the priests, who form the backbone of the community and whose hold on the common people can only be maintained by resistance to all progress, are, and always will be, against reform of any sort. It follows, therefore, that the introduction of any reforms imposed upon the Abyssinian Government by the pressure of public opinion abroad will be resented bitterly by that section of their people whose support it is essential for them to retain. An unpleasant prospect!

Attention abroad has been concentrated chiefly on the question of slavery. For months past the English Press has been signalling a recrudescence of slavery in Africa, and pointing to Abyssinia as the source of the evil. These statements have recently received substantial confirmation at the hands of the French Government. The Assembly of the League of Nations is to consider reports on the matter in September next.

Abyssinia and the League of Nations.

The Abyssinian Government are dealing with the situation thus created with considerable address. Their attitude was defined by the Regent, Ras Tafari, a few weeks ago, in a statement made for publication in *The Times*. Briefly, the Abyssinian Government recognise the gravity of the question, and are taking their own measures independently to suppress the slave traffic in the countries under their own control. Although they have received no communication from the League of Nations, they wish it to be known that they are prepared to assist the investigations of the Assembly by supplying such information as is in their possession. They will co-operate in measures taken by the League to suppress the traffic in the Red Sea and other African territories, but they will resent any action taken by the League which would tend to fix responsibility for the present state of affairs on the Abyssinian Government alone. For this reason a Commission of Enquiry sent by the League to Abyssinia alone would not be acceptable. They point out that the information available shows that slaves are captured as often in British territory as within the boundaries of Abyssinia; that the slave raiders concerned are as often British subjects as Abyssinians; that slaves pass through French Somaliland as well as Abyssinia on their way to the coast; and that the men who deliver the slaves to the waiting dhows are almost always Arabs, who are certainly not Abyssinian subjects, but are sometimes British or French subjects. They argue, therefore, that responsibility for the existence of the slave traffic, wherever it lies, must be shared by the British and French Governments.

It must be admitted that the Abyssinian Government have acted correctly, and by so doing have gone a long way towards putting themselves right in the eyes of the world. Moreover, my information goes to show that they are really doing their best to stop the traffic in their own country. Whether their efforts will be successful and will

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be sustained remains to be seen. In any case, the League might well help with encouragement and advice, and by arranging for the co-ordination of the measures which are being taken independently by the British, French, and Abyssinian Governments.

The Administration of Justice.

It is to be hoped that the Abyssinian Government will have the wisdom to deal betimes with another question, which otherwise will assuredly give them a great deal of trouble, and that is the question of the administration of justice in suits between Abyssinians and foreign subjects. The procedure in these cases is governed by the provisions of what is known as the Klobokowsky Treaty, a treaty made between the French and the Emperor Menelik some fifteen years ago. It was therein agreed that in the hearing of suits between Abyssinians and French subjects the Abyssinian judge should be assisted by the French Consul, and that judgment should be given in accordance with the law of the country to which the defendant in each suit belonged. In the case of disagreement between the Abyssinian judge and the French Consul, the suit was to be sent for trial before the Court of the Emperor himself. This procedure was accepted in practice by Great Britain and the other Powers concerned in the case of their respective subjects. The machinery thus provided worked moderately well until a year ago, when, with the laudable intention of facilitating and expediting procedure, the Abyssinian Government created a new and permanent tribunal, under the name of the "Special Court," to deal solely with these cases. The foreign Consuls, as before, sat in this Court. Unfortunately, from lack of experience and lack of authority, the Court has not proved equal to its task. Many complaints are levelled against it, of which the most serious is that whereas the execution of decrees passed by the Court against foreign subjects is promptly enforced by the Consul concerned, foreign subjects find it impossible to obtain execution of decrees passed in their favour against Abyssinians. It is doubtful whether the Abyssinian Government realises the extent of the irritation felt by foreign residents over this matter, or the concern which it is causing in the foreign Legations.

Belgium and Abyssinia.

An event of diplomatic interest is the arrival of M. Gérard, the newly appointed Belgian Minister. Hitherto the Belgian Government has not been represented diplomatically in this country, and some speculation has been caused over the new move, more especially as it is understood that M. Gérard has come from the important post of Director of the African Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Brussels. It is thought that the recent acquisition of an alcohol monopoly in this country can hardly account for the bringing up of such heavy artillery.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The appointment of Colonel Leslie Wilson to be Governor of Bombay is gazetted.

The Athens strike has come to an end, the men having submitted unconditionally.

It is understood that Aziz Izzet Pasha has declined the position of Egyptian Minister in London.

The Rev. W. H. C. Johnson, of Meiktila, Burma, has been appointed Archdeacon of Rangoon.

A message from Tashkend (Turkestan), received in Riga, states that an earthquake shock lasting four minutes and accompanied by subterranean rumblings was felt there on the night of the 20th inst. The centre of the disturbance was 150 miles distant.

The retirement of Major-General Sir C. C. Manifold, Indian Medical Service, was announced in the *London Gazette* of August 24.

A raid by the Calcutta police has resulted in a big haul of counterfeit hundred-rupee and ten-rupee notes. Several Bengalis were arrested

It is announced that M. G. Japy, Second Secretary of the French Embassy in London, has been appointed French Chargé d'Affaires in Bucharest.

Former officials of the Bokhara Government and members of the commercial classes have been deprived of their votes by the Soviet administration of the State.

An Exchange message from Athens says that General Tricoupis, two other generals, and about three hundred officers, who were prisoners of war in Asia Minor, have arrived there.

Miss Augusta Mary Rachel Dobson, Mus.Bac., whose death occurred at Ealing on August 22, was formerly Warden of the Missionary Settlement for University Women, Bombay.

Greece will be represented at the Assembly of the League of Nations by M. Nicholas Politis and M. André Michelakopoulos. General Alexandre Mazarakis and M. Jean Politis will act as technical advisers.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald has been invited by the Bulgarian Social Democratic Party to pay a visit to Sofia on his way to Constantinople, but he has replied that it is not possible for him to accept the invitation .

The epidemic of dengue fever continues in Calcutta, and is causing much inconvenience to business houses. A doctor at the School of Tropical Medicine estimates that 40 per cent. of the population of the city is suffering.

There are no more cholera cases at Baghdad, but Basra reports thirty cases daily. Enough anti-cholera serum is available at Baghdad to vaccinate the whole population. The troops have been already vaccinated and isolated at Hinaidi. The cholera was brought to Abadan from India by pilgrims.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The European Situation.

It cannot be said that the position with regard to the European problem has been vitally altered by M. Poincaré's Note. As I forecasted, it was distinctly conciliatory in tone; it was none the less indicative of France's resolution to pursue the course that she has mapped out. "The brokers have been put in; they will remain until Germany has paid" sums up the situation. From France's point of view that may be all right; from ours it is all wrong, but then our Ally has not felt the effects of the *impasse*. Unfortunately, the fact has to be admitted that there is little or nothing we can do at the moment to modify the position. Those who would counsel cutting ourselves adrift from the European problem are hopelessly beside the point. For good or ill, events have made us a part of Europe, and in no conceivable circumstances could we remain unmoved by developments across the water. We are now linked to Europe, and a recognition of that fact is essential to an understanding of the problem with which we are confronted and on the solution of which the future of our trade endeavour and the unemployment question depend. One imagines that matters are likely to remain as they are at present for some time at any rate. It can only be hoped that by the time the Imperial Conference meets events will have taken a more favourable turn, and that then the Prime Minister will be able to intervene to better effect.

The Turkish Market.

Discussion is naturally rife as to the difference that peace with Turkey will make to our trade. Disappointments since the Armistice have been so many and various that it is only natural that commercial circles should wax hopeful over the ratification, more especially in view of the problematic European situation. The question which is discussed in detail in an article on another page, is one which cannot now be answered, as it might have been if peace had come reasonably soon after the Armistice. In that event it would have been possible to anticipate an immediate and direct influence on trade, but the long years that have elapsed have simply exhausted Turkey's resources, and have crippled her capacity for trade. Commercial developments in the immediate future depend on Turkey's capacity to export, and that, so far as my information goes, is at present limited, consisting largely of the product of this season's yield of dried fruits. As pointed out in the article in question, a loan is an essential preliminary to Turkey's economic recovery. The rest must depend upon the Turks themselves. If they show themselves capable of applying to industry the qualities that they undoubtedly possess, the future of the country should be bright, and it should not be long before the Turkish market comes to assume a very considerable importance.

The Coming Egyptian Season.

In a very short time the Egyptian season will have commenced, and there is considerable hope in regard to the prospects of the tourist traffic, and justifiably so, for the recent discoveries have given Egypt an advertisement of a unique order. If only the world were making real progress towards reconstruction, it would be possible to be very optimistic on the subject, for it is certain that in anything approaching normal times there would be a rush to the valley of the Pharaohs with which the existing hotels could scarcely cope. As it is, the attraction of the late lamented Tutankhamen may suffice even in existing circumstances to draw quite a considerable crowd out to Egypt, and if the country does not have the "bumper" season that it might reasonably expect, it will have the satisfaction of knowing that it is but a deferred event. The fascination that Egypt exercised before the War has been more than renewed, and if only the attractions of the country are judiciously kept in the foreground, there need be no question of the failure of any subsequent season.

Rupee Exchange Weakness.

The weakness of the rupee exchange has been a noticeable feature of late. The rate has been down to 1s. 3 15-16d., and at the time of writing is only fractionally above that figure. The main reason is, of course, to be found in the weakness of India's export trade, and it has to be remembered that this is the period of the year when exports naturally decline and the exchange weakens. I am inclined, however, to regard the present development as to some extent a reflection of the obscure commercial outlook generally.

Irak and the Exhibition.

An Irak contemporary very appositely raises the question why arrangements have not been made for that country to be represented at the British Empire Exhibition. Palestine is, of course, to be represented, and there would seem to be no good reason why Irak should not play an equally prominent part at the exhibition, which offers an admirable opportunity for displaying the potentialities of the country. If it is not yet too late, the authorities would be well advised to take the necessary steps.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, August 20.

The Petroleum Industry.

A delegation from the Petroleum Industries Association was recently received by M. Sassu, Minister of Industry and Commerce, and presented to him two important petitions. The first asked for a prompt decision regarding applications made in accordance with the law of June, 1920, for authorisations, transactions, concessions, and the prolongation of concessions. Many such applications have been held over by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce for more than a year in view of the Government's intention to include in the new Constitution a law for the nationalisation of the sub-soil. The new Constitution has now been adopted, and it authorises the passing of such a law; but the law itself and the regulations for its administration are still in the drafting stage, so that the Ministry of Industry and Commerce is apparently still unable to come to any decision as to how the said applications are to be dealt with. This state of affairs is, of course, a serious hindrance to the development of the petroleum industry, and the petition strongly urges that some decision be taken without further delay. M. Sassu's reply was not very satisfactory, as he merely promised that after the vote had been taken on the mining law at the September session of Parliament a committee should be appointed to settle the outstanding questions of concessions, etc.

The second petition asked that the petroleum industry should be represented on the commission which has been appointed to draw up the law regarding the future régime of the petroleum pipe lines. The large pipe lines leading to the ports are, and will probably remain, a State monopoly. This is said to have been found necessary in order to avoid private monopolies and so to protect the interests of the small petroleum enterprises. The small pipe lines from the wells to the refineries, etc., are in private hands, and it is not proposed that the State should interfere with the ownership of these. It is felt, however, by the petroleum producers that their experience and convenience should be consulted in the drafting of a new régime for the pipes, and this M. Sassu willingly agreed to, inviting the delegation to appoint representatives to sit on the pipe-line commission.

The writer of an article on this subject published in the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* for this month, while expressing gratification at M. Sassu's helpful attitude in this regard, remarks how regrettable it is that the Roumanian Government has not yet adopted as a governing principle the method so long practised in England, of consulting the industries concerned when new laws are being drawn up which directly affect their interests. This method naturally tends to give the laws a permanent character, seeing that the experience of those best acquainted with the working conditions of the industry has been used to make them cover all important points.

Exports for Half Year.

The total exports of petroleum products during the first six months of this year has been as follows, according to the *Moniteur du Pétrole Roumain* (the figures representing metric tons):—January, 19,389; February, 19,764; March, 34,810; April, 41,768; May, 23,879; June, 37,717; total, 177,308. This figure is about a thousand tons less than that for the corresponding period of last year. The exports for the second half of the year, however, generally exceed those for the first half, and it is to be hoped that conditions will have so improved by the end of the year that this year will prove no exception to the rule. The fixed prices for the home market have recently been raised, to the satisfaction of the producers, and this will probably give a fresh impetus to the internal trade, so that any increase of exports will depend upon an increase of production, and this again is dependent upon the attitude of the Government towards the first petition mentioned in this article.

Vegetable Oils.

The production of vegetable oil is a favourite industry of the inhabitants of Bessarabia, mostly in the towns, and it is reported that in 1922 3,220,000 kilograms of vegetable oil were produced in that province. At the price of about 28 lei per kilogram this represents a value of over 90 million lei.

GREECE.

Athens, August 4.

The Drachma.

Instead of causing an appreciation of the drachma the announcement that peace had been signed at Lausanne had an entirely opposite effect. On the very same day that the news came through the pound sterling made an extraordinary jump, gaining about 40 points in less than three hours. The fall of the drachma continued until yesterday, when it reached a maximum of 320 to the pound, subsequently improving to 270.

This new depreciation of Greek currency is attributed mainly to the gambling on the exchange, which has recommenced with renewed vigour, also to the future financial uncertainty.

There is a rumour here to-day that M. Diomede, Governor of the National Bank of Greece, now in London, has secured one million sterling out of the six million refugee loan authorised by the League of Nations. If this rumour proves correct, the drachma should once again improve.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Steam Launches.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches required for the Upper White Nile Division, Sudan. October 1.

Roumania.

Cotton Linings for Carriage Upholstery, etc.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of:—10,000 metres of cotton linings for carriage upholstery (width, 1 metre), 10,000 metres cushion cloth (width, 1 metre), 12,000 metres ticking ("coutil") for coverings (width, 0.90 metre), 10,000 metres hemp linings (width, 1 metre), 5,000 metres cloth for cleaning floors of carriages (width, 0.50 metre). September 12. (D.O.T.)

Lead Tubes.—The Roumanian State Railways are inviting tenders for the supply of 8,000 kilos lead tubes, assorted; 2,000 kilos each of 8 by 13, 20 by 25, 24 by 30, 30 by 20. Delivery of half the quantity is required to be made in two months and the balance in three months from the date of the receipt of the order. The Railway Administration reserves the right to reduce by half the quantities called for. September 29. (D.O.T.)

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TRADE WITH TURKEY.

The Need for Confidence.

The ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne by the Angora Assembly formally ushers in an era of peace in the Near East, for the first time practically for twelve years. The question at once arises: Of what use is the new Turkey likely to be to the British manufacturer and trader? As far as can be judged, the answer is at present almost invariably determined by the personal or political feelings of the individual, according as he labels himself Turcophobe or Turcophil, the outlook is for him gloomy or the reverse. There are, however, a large number of business people who are neither one nor the other, and they would prefer to have an answer to the question based on something more reliable than propaganda or emotions. If the Turks are going to adopt for all time the attitude that the Nationalists have affected since the Armistice, the outlook is admittedly a poor one. Many of those who claim to have knowledge of the Turk are convinced that in these last four years he has been showing his true colours, and that he will always remain what he has been. In other words, the Turk, it is argued, is instinctively anti-foreign, and now that he is at liberty to indulge his predilections, life and business in Turkey for the foreigner will be impossible. This lugubrious prognostication labours under the mistake that the Angora Turk himself has been inclined to fall into. He has imagined, in his ignorance of world conditions, and under the glamour of what has been achieved in or from Angora, that henceforth Turkey can live entirely to herself in a beautiful, nation-tight compartment where the foreigners cease from troubling and the Faithful take their rest. Before the ink of the Lausanne Treaty was dry, however, the majority of thinking Turks knew that this could not be the case. No nation lives to itself nowadays; least of all can Turkey, impoverished by a dozen years of war—the Turko-Italian war was in 1911—denuded of many of the necessaries of life, and, above all, fired with new ideas of Turkey's rôle in the world that will call for the satisfying of numerous material wants, if the ideas are to be lived up to.

There cannot be the least doubt that the demand for goods will be there in Turkey—for everything, from boots to motor-cars, conditioned, of course, by certain obvious facts, the numerical strength of the market and the habits and customs of the people. A foreign loan, it goes without saying, is an essential preliminary. Turkey can have little money of her own to spend at the present time; but she has the natural resources and an industrious people. No less important, she has most certainly the will to make good. Given a loan, which it is to be hoped will be earmarked for definite reproductive purposes, the one uncertain factor that must be conceded to the pessimist who "knows the Turk" is the capacity for sustained effort of those who now supply the nation's motive power. It has to be admitted that in the past the Turk has frequently displayed great zeal for this or that reform, or even for reforms in general, but the zeal has a knack of evaporating in a comparatively short time. Will this particular weakness of the Turk continue to repeat itself? The future alone can tell. The past is no guide, although it may be a warning. To-day what has been termed the will to make good is much more widely distributed among the people than it has ever been before; again, a younger generation of Turks is coming to the front. These circumstances may safeguard the country from one of its besetting sins. If they do not, the value of Turkey as a market for British goods will remain unaffected at the outset, for the original demand will still be there. The worst that has to be feared is the possibility of a gradual diminution of the value of the market; but before that takes place other factors may well have arisen to administer a further check to the tendency to slackening of effort.

But, says the pessimist, although the demand may be there, the conditions with which it is hedged round make the market an impossible one to cater for. It is difficult to believe that this is a serious complaint on the part of a British business man. The position of England in the world of commerce could never have been built up on such weak-kneed principles. Trade with China from sixty to eighty years ago was carried out under conditions far more onerous and dangerous than any that Turkey can reproduce to-day. If the timid drop out of the running now, there will be plenty to take their place.

What is most desirable, however, is that fears about the Turkish market should not gain currency as the considered attitude of the British manufacturer and trader. The surest way of demoralising that market is to let the Turks get it into their heads that they cannot look for honest business deals with firms of standing, but must turn to the men who are out only to make money quickly, and for this reason are prepared to take risks, provided that the possible profits are large enough, and to bribe if necessary to gain their end. Adventurers of this type may be useful in certain circumstances, but Turkish resources deserve a better fate, and what is required is that British trade with new Turkey should be gradually built up on a sound and permanent basis. To this end a little confidence is necessary at this juncture. Instead of settling down to the conviction that Turkey and the Turks can never improve, let British firms proceed tentatively by showing themselves ready to give the Turks credit for better intentions, now that they have reached their nationalist goal of complete independence, and to trade for reasonable profit if the Turks show themselves anxious to treat foreign interests rationally.

That these are not altogether the counsels of perfection of those who have not had to do with the Turks can be shown by extracts from a letter from an English business man long resident in Turkey. He writes:—

> England should be advised to lend a hand to Turkey. She should have done it four years ago; let her do it now at least. England complains of lack of markets for her goods. She is also fearful of entering the Turkish market at present, and is inclined to wait and see. Our merchants in the past built up her greatness by courage, and entered worse fields than Turkey now offers, and made good. If there is a universal "wait and see" attitude adopted towards Turkey, troubles will follow and perhaps Bolshevism. If life is not immediately put into this place by trade, there will be lack of work and lack of food; and it is on the empty stomach that revolution marches. The present decent element in Turkey needs to be encouraged and helped through her early needs, and our Government should, if necessary, guarantee traders to come in. This would, in the long run, be cheaper than to face a second Russia. If the right big British Man wants a fair deal with the Turk, and comes out himself and asks for it, he will get it. The Turk still likes us best.
>
> The word to Turkey is this: You are poor and your country impoverished through the strain of the past twelve years. You must lean on some country both for your financial needs and for technical experience. Look around and choose this country. You had a man who misrepresented your nation and brought about enmity between our two countries—Enver Pasha. We had a man who misrepresented our country and accentuated this enmity—Lloyd George. Offset one against the other and resume where we left off. There may even be some other country you may wish to choose, but think well and do not experi-

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ment unwisely. You must not now try and administer your country from taxes on its present reduced trade. This is now but a small, delicate plant that needs careful cultivation. You must engender a feeling of confidence and obtain a loan, which must be wisely used in developing Asia Minor and its products. When such development begins, still tax lightly; let it grow, and then you will have an assured revenue to the benefit of the individuals and the greatness of your country. Do not be afraid to be humble and acknowledge your present commercial unpreparedness. Take advice and take assistance and await the assured results.

PREPARING FOR THE EXHIBITION.

Wembley To-day.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Though so far as one could judge in a casual tour round the site of the British Empire Exhibition a great part of the work of construction still remains to be done, the buildings already on the site have gone far to change the face of the landscape of North-West London. The Stadium, which dwarfs the other buildings, and yet promises to blend so beautifully into the completed scheme, is to that region something of what the Crystal Palace is to the South. Possibly, I might even say probably, it is viewed with a jaundiced eye from the famous Hill, for the landmark is a very visible portent of the time when Harrow, too, will be numbered among the suburbs. That development, inevitable in any case, has been greatly hastened by the decision to hold the Exhibition at Wembley, and I have no doubt that in a very few years that hamlet will be the centre of a very populous region.

Already a great change has been effected in the appearance of Wembley, which has lost the atmosphere of rural peace that lay so pleasantly upon it. Its roads have been modernised, its railway communications extended, there is to be an arcade, while all that remains of the park which forms the site of the Exhibition are those of the trees that it has been found possible to preserve. These will add immensely to the picturesqueness of the setting of the Exhibition. While, as I have said, much has still to be accomplished, sufficient has been done to enable one to form a very good idea of the grandeur of the conception of the scheme. On the side of the main entrance there is a semi-circular colonnade, and from within one has a straight view to the Stadium, which rises a massive, impressive edifice, also of concrete, in the distance several hundred yards away. The idea of spaciousness has been well realised, and it would be difficult to imagine a more noble or more suitable approach to the Exhibition halls than is presented by that broad expanse, which is flanked on the one side by the Hall of Engineering and on the other by the Palace of Industry, both of which are rapidly approaching completion.

In the intervening space between the approach and the Stadium there is to be a lake, crossed by a bridge which is in process of construction, and between the lake and the Stadium there is an avenue of trees which will give the last finishing touch to a spacious idea. If the other sections of the Exhibition are in keeping with the promise presented by this part of the scheme, then the City of Concrete will be a marvellous spectacle fully worthy of the high object of demonstrating the economic potentialities of the British Empire.

The buildings of the various parts of the Empire will stand behind or adjacent to the Palaces of Industry and Engineering, and considerable progress has already been made in regard to some of them, notably the Indian section and the Canadian pavilion, though others have not yet been commenced. There is also to be an Amusement Park, for while the purpose of the Exhibition is to promote commercial relations within the Empire, it is naturally essential to provide diversions for the multitudes who will visit it next year. This Park is situated well to the left between the Stadium and the railway line, and is quite away from the Exhibition proper.

It is difficult in mere words to give a real idea of the vastness of the Exhibition, but some idea of it may be gained by pointing out that the Palace of Industry alone covers eight acres, while the Hall of Engineering is larger still. Certainly the Exhibition will not be an event than can be looked over in an hour or so. I should think it probable, indeed, that several visits will be required to see all the wealth of the resources of the Empire that will be displayed. Certain it is that the Exhibition will be a comprehensive and dignified presentation of our capabilities, and it will be strange if the result is not an invaluable contribution towards the solution of the vexed problem with which this country is now confronted in regard to the development of overseas trade.

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TURKISH TRADE IN SCHOOL SUPPLIES

There are at present between 80,000 and 100,000 students in the various schools in Turkey. Supplies for the schools are not bought by the Turkish Government, but are purchased by the individual schools and institutions (says an American Consular report). Each of these has its own budget for expenditures, and one member of the school board usually acts as purchasing agent, buying all the supplies needed in the local market.

Paints are rarely used in the schools. What little art instruction is given is limited practically to conventionalised forms with little or no colour work. It is believed, however, that water-colour painting will be taken up more and more as time goes on.

Chalk and crayon are in considerable demand in the Turkish schools. Germany leads in this trade, except in coloured chalks, which are supplied as well by France, England, and in a smaller degree by the United States. Coloured chalk costs about 20 piastres for a box of 100 pieces, while white chalk costs about 17 piastres for a small-size box. Germany also controls the trade in pencils. Copying pencils and No. 2 in graphite are most in demand.

The specific rates of the so-called "one-half per cent." Port Tax applied to goods imported and exported through the Danube and seaports of Roumania have been increased.

The Department of Overseas Trade announces that Col. Harold Woods, O.B.E., has taken up the duties of Commercial Secretary (Grade II.) for Turkey, in succession to Captain C. H. Courthope Monroe, resigned.

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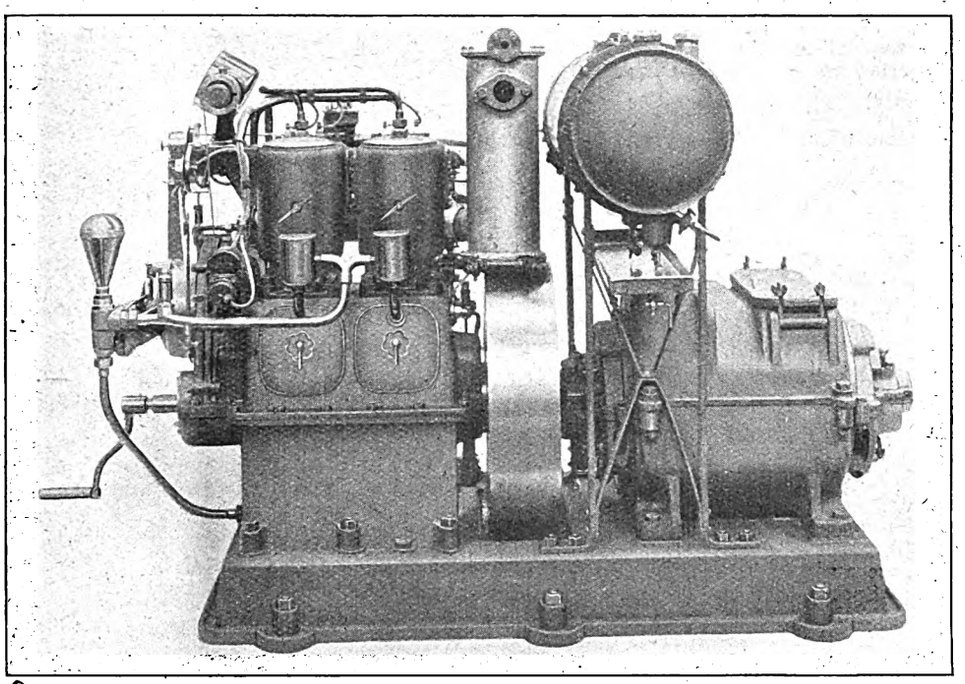
Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative).

A New Electric Lighting Set.

Some brief particulars of a new oil-engine-driven electric lighting set, for which Messrs. A. G. Mumford, Ltd., are responsible, may be of interest to my readers, particularly those in the Near East and India. The engine is of the two-cylinder type, and the capacity of the set is 10 kilowatts at 105 volts. The cylinders are 5 in. in bore by 6½ in. stroke, and the running rate is 900 revolutions per minute. The dynamo is by Messrs. Crompton and Co., Ltd., and the engine and the dynamo rest on a bed plate on which are also the fuel tanks, silencer, and circulating pump. The advantage of this is obvious, for all that is required for the set to be ready for operation is to connect up with a water supply and an exhaust pipe. The crank chamber is made of cast iron, and in the lower half of it are the crank shaft bearings, which are of gunmetal, lined with white metal, and are adjustable. In order to reduce vibration, four steel balance weights are fitted to the crank shaft, while the utilisation of a special fibre for the construction of the cam shaft gear wheel assures almost silent running. On each side of the crank case are inspection doors, which permit the ready removal of the connecting rods and pistons. The forced lubrication of the bearings is accomplished by a plunger pump, which is attached to a lower oil sump bolted on the crank chamber. On the under side of the oil sump is a water jacket, and the circulating water is drawn through it on the way to the main cylinders.

The firm's patented type of vaporiser is used. The fuel is drawn in with a small quantity of air to the exhaust-heated vaporiser, and an automatic air valve of a special type regulates the extra cold air. A needle valve coupled with the throttle regulates the fuel, and adjustments are provided, enabling the easy regulation of the fuel. The plunger type of circulating water pump is used, this being due to the high suction lift that is required, and it is driven from a crank disc on the end of the cam shaft. Oil is supplied to the crank pin and to the gudgeon pin of the pump by a centrifugal oiling arrangement. Two magnetos effect the ignition of the charge, each cylinder being fitted with two plugs. An impulse coupling is fitted to one of the magnetos, which with the special type of relief valve fitted to the cylinder renders particularly easy the starting of the engine. To facilitate starting a simple compression release arrangement is fitted, comprising a non-return valve, which is so arranged that it can make a tight joint on the cylinder when screwed up by a sleeve. This valve, when it is slightly unscrewed, relieves the pressure on the compression stroke, but closes during the suction stroke, and prevents the addition to the mixture of any additional air. These engines have a special arrangement of exhaust by-pass and throttle fitted, enabling the heat of the vaporiser to be regulated. The capacity of the paraffin tank is sufficient for six hours' running.



TWO-CYLINDER PARAFFIN LIGHTING SET.

A Powder Mixer Sifter Mixer.

Those of my readers who are interested in mixing machines may like to have some particulars of Young's Powder Mixer Sifter Mixer, the manufacturers of which are Messrs. Young's Patent Hygienic Bin Company. The machine is fitted with a hopper over its whole length, and this enables the base to be laid in the hopper and the ingredients to be sprinkled on top. The batch is fed through a grid, which pulverises any lumps of chemical, on to the brush, and is then brushed through a sieve which can be fitted with any desired type of mesh. The sifted material falls into the mixing chamber, where it is thoroughly mixed by a specially designed helical gear and beater arms, and it can be entirely discharged through a simply operated flap. Special advantages of the machine are that the hopper hingeing allows the removal of both sieve and brush in a vertical position, and that when the brush has completed its function it can instantaneously be released and by means of a handle a sluice can be closed, permitting the hopper to be recharged whilst the mixing chamber is in operation.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm and Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended August 17, state:—

The futures market has been fairly active, and has secured a substantial advance during the week. The firmness of our market must be attributed to speculative purchases induced by the strength of the American markets and by the Government purchases; commercial houses have taken very little interest. The Government have continued their purchases, buying 300 to 400 bales daily, for which they have paid $\frac{3}{4}$ below November for Fully Good Fair Sakellarides and the price of November contracts for Fully Good Fair to Good Sakellarides. Owing to the existing trade depression, the advance has so far left spinners apathetic; the demand from abroad, for either old or new crops, has been poor. This week's receipts amount to 1,742 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,637,196 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 49,542 krs., and the stock stands at 903,919 krs., against 951,719 krs. a week ago and 1,524,801 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—The Minet el Bassal Market has continued quiet this week, and no improvement in the demand is to be noted as yet from spinners. Sales amount to about 3,800 bales, of which we estimate 2,700 bales Sakellarides, 1,100 bales Uppers, and a few odd bales of White, but of the Sakellarides the Government has bought about 1,150 B/s from Fully Good Fair to Fully Good Fair to Good. The first arrivals of Upper Egypt cotton have been put on the market. The cotton is, of course, high-grade and of quite good staple for such early picked cotton, but it is not possible to form an opinion on a few early lots.

Sakellarides.—The medium and good grades have been in most demand, low qualities being still neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are generally easier.

Uppers.—All styles have been dealt in. Spot prices generally are considerably easier, especially in high grades, and there is more disposition to sell what remains of the old crop in view of the new cotton which is beginning to arrive.

Brown and White are neglected, and only a few bales of White are reported. Spot prices are generally easier for both growths, but markedly so in Brown in sympathy with Uppers. The demand for these growths is at present very small.

The Crop.—Nothing of note is reported. Water supply is ample. In certain districts of Lower Egypt the crop is said to be slightly backward. The Government issued on the 11th inst. its second report of this year's acreage, showing 1,194,000 feddans for Lower Egypt and 394,100 feddans for Upper Egypt, making a total of 1,588,100 feddans for the whole of Egypt; this is an increase of 128,078 feddans over its first estimate.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Inquiry Improving.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 22:—

A fair inquiry has been maintained during the past week, and some slight hardening in the basis of all qualities has taken place, the quotations of all grades of Sakel being raised 15 points, and those of upper and brown 10 points. The medium Sakel grades have furnished the greater portion of the demand, cotton ranging from 70 to 100 on November contracts being much sought after. As pointed out last week, the local selection of the above-mentioned style is now poor, and spinners are beginning to be faced with the alternative of either buying higher grades or sending orders out to Alexandria for c.i.f. cotton.

A moderate amount of business has been done in uppers, but spinners naturally limit their takings in this growth to the lowest possible extent in view of the comparatively cheap offers for new crop shipments. Sudan varieties have been in rather better request, and several lots of Tokar Sakel have been placed at prices ranging from 17$\frac{3}{8}$d. to 18$\frac{1}{4}$d. The estimated sales for the week amount to 2,500 bales, against 4,700 previously reported. Sudan sales total 730 bales. Fully good fair Sakel to-day 16.45d.

An industrial exhibition, comprising the products and manufactures of various Turkish provinces, is to be held at Broussa under the auspices of the Turkish Government from September 11 to the end of October

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Market Position Unchanged.

The Manchester cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended August 25 states:—

Once again there is no change to report with regard to this market. Operations remain limited and the tone weak. Most of the offers received from abroad are on a price basis which is far too low, and negotiations fail to raise them to the point at which business can be done.

Yarn.—Prices continue very irregular, but without quotable change on the week. There has been no increase in the amount of business passing either in American or Egyptian, and the market for the former remains in a very depressed state. Some relief is anticipated from the annual Oldham holidays which commence next week; many firms will close down for a fortnight in addition to the usual half-time working during the rest of the month.

Cloth.—A very poor week has been experienced in practically all sections. Shippers to Turkey and the Levant have been quietly picking up stock lots at cheap prices, but these are usually only small quantities. The principal foreign outlets have been very disappointing, and dealers abroad are undoubtedly only purchasing to meet immediate requirements.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have fluctuated somewhat, and the market, generally speaking, is unsettled. The weather reports from the United States have been a little more favourable, but there appears small prospect of the total crop exceeding the estimates. The news from Egypt continues favourable. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 15.49; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 16.45.

CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET FOR PARAFFIN WAX.

The annual consumption of paraffin wax in Constantinople is between 1,000 and 2,000 sacks, of which 75 per cent. is supplied by American firms and the remainder by Roumania. Paraffin is used here (says an American Consular report) mainly in the manufacture of wax tapers for religious purposes, very little being taken by ship chandlers for supplying vessels touching at this port.

The trade in paraffin wax on the Constantinople market has declined greatly since 1921. During 1920 and 1921 approximately 600 tons of this article were shipped to Russia by way of Constantinople, while during the same period Roumania and Bulgaria took a total of 700 tons. However, Russia and Roumania are now again able to supply their own requirements for paraffin. In Bulgaria an American company has established warehouses and stocks at the seaport of Bourgas, whence paraffin is distributed to the rest of the country.

The prospects for the future development of the trade in paraffin in Turkey appear to be good. The new tariff regulations, recently promulgated by the Turkish authorities, subject candles to an import duty of 60 piastres per kilo. It is believed that under the protection of this high duty a Turkish candle industry will develop, which in turn will cause an increased demand for paraffin wax. With regard to candles, it is worthy of note that there is a preference locally for the French type, which are manufactured from a mixture of paraffin and ceresin.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	240-245
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	420-440
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.17-25.20
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3 3/32-1.4
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	96.85
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	1,010
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-100,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.3 3/32-1.4
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	855
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.54 5/8-4.54 3/4
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	79.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	154 3/4
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	104 7/8-105
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	485 -55
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	322-326,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,125,000*

*Nominal.

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THE GREEK STATE RAILWAY POSITION.

A Serious Outlook.

The physical and financial conditions of the Government-owned railways of Greece are a matter of considerable concern to the State, as revealed by discussions in the Greek Press during recent months (says an American commerce report). Track and equipment are in poor condition and the traffic is insignificant compared with what it should be. Shortage of labour and repair material, added to intensive traffic during and immediately after the war, left Greece, like other nations involved in the war, with a demoralised railway system.

The poverty of the Greek State has prohibited any except emergency remedies, and replacements have been almost out of the question. Earnings in pre-war years have been replaced by deficits that have resulted from costly working of inefficient locomotives, from increased wages, from higher repair costs, and from expensive track maintenance on low roadbeds that are subject to frequent washout or overflow.

Cost of Reconstruction.

Makeshift repairs have been made to roadbed and track, but extensive permanent repairs are greatly needed, particularly in elevation of roadbed. Many bridges should be strengthened or replaced; decayed sleepers are also in need of replacement. Greece does not produce rolling stock or other equipment, and imports have been delayed. Urgent temporary repairs needed to bring the lines and rolling stock up to date are estimated to cost 80,000,000 drachmæ.

The State railways, having 1.44-metre gauge and a total length of 1,275 kilometres, comprise the following lines: Piræus-Athens-Salonika-Ghevgeli (Yugoslav frontier), 598 kilometres; branch lines, 46 kilometres; Salonika-Monastir, 183 kilometres; and Salonika-Dedeagatch, 448 kilometres. The roadbed on both the Salonika-Monastir line and the Piræus-Ghevgeli line is too low in many places; this is particularly true of the Athens-Salonika and the Salonika-Ghevgeli sections, over which runs the Orient Express that links Athens with Western Europe. There are frequent washouts, at times occasioning interruptions to traffic of ten days' duration and necessitating repairs involving considerable expense. It has been said that the only remedy for this condition is to change the route of the line.

The reinforcement of the Athens-Salonika-Ghevgeli line by replacing the worn rails of 34 kilos weight per metre with new 40-kilo rails and by replacing the decayed wooden sleepers with steel sleepers weighing 70 kilos each has been projected, thus allowing the use of heavier engines and more economical maintenance of way. Steel sleepers in use on the lines from Salonika to Monastir and Dedeagatch show a saving of 20 per cent. in labour alone on upkeep, and are expected to last 50 years, compared with seven years for wooden sleepers. It is estimated that 600,000 steel sleepers would be necessary for the line from Athens to Ghevgeli; the estimated cost of these improvements is 123,000,000 drachmæ.

Inadequate Rolling Stock.

In the autumn of 1922 there were 152 locomotives, 116 tenders, 242 passenger cars, 1,682 closed freight cars, 870 open freight cars, and three cranes in use. Nine of these locomotives, however, were left in Asia Minor, and 20 per cent. of the remainder and 30 per cent. of the passenger cars were under repair. The locomotives are small and of old design, except a few bought in the United States and some "armistice" engines turned over to Greece out of the deliveries from Bulgaria and Germany. The cars are small and badly worn.

This rolling stock is insufficient for the carriage of articles of prime necessity. Merchandise worth approximately 15,000,000 drachmæ was reported to be waiting for transportation near railroad warehouses, exposed to the weather in November, 1922. An added burden is put on the railroads by the need of supplies for the enormous and increasing numbers of refugees; some cars have been turned over exclusively for the carriage of refugee supplies from Salonika. Some efforts have been made to secure new equipment, but the results have been of little consequence. New and larger locomotives and cars are needed, provided tracks and bridges are strengthened.

Freight rates and passenger fares were increased several times during 1922; in October of that year rates were raised 75 per cent. and fares 50 per cent., the purpose being to increase rates in proportion to operating costs. In spite of this great advance, the returns have not produced sufficient income, and the operation of the Government railroads continues to be a heavy burden on the State Treasury, although the deficit for 1922 was expected to be smaller than in 1921. The deficit for the latter year was 10,824,000 drachmæ, in comparison with a deficit of 2,180,298 drachmæ in 1919 and a net surplus of 250,736 drachmæ in 1914.

Various efforts have been made to secure a loan for railway rehabilitation. To this end, a legislative decree was published on April 3, providing for the contracting of a loan. Under its provisions, the State railways must deposit a portion of their gross income from fares and freight each month with the National Bank of Greece. The portion may be as much as 15 per cent., and is to be fixed in each case by the Cabinet. The money is solely for the service of a loan to be contracted for indispensable technical works, materials, improvements of lines, and renewal of rolling stock. All details of the loan are subject to the approval of the Minister of Communications.

In addition to the foregoing measures, the Greek Government for a year or more has been negotiating with various English, French, and American capitalists for the taking over of all the State railways, either by purchase or by concession for operation, with a view to improving existing lines and building new ones. No definite results have been announced as yet.

Proposed Reforms.

The collapse of the Greek State railways can be avoided only by extensive administrative, labour, financial, and operating reforms, according to the *Economist* of Athens of May 26. In order to accomplish this most quickly, effectively, and with least expense, the *Economist* suggests that the greatest efforts and funds be concentrated on the Salonika-Ghevgeli section as the shortest and most usable route for traffic from Central Europe to the Levant and to the Orient, via Port Said.

At present this traffic has the choice of three main rail routes to the Mediterranean—via Italy to Brindisi; via Serbia and Greece to Piræus or to Salonika; or via Bulgaria and Turkey to Constantinople. Of the three peninsular routes, that by way of Greece offers the shortest sea passage to Port Said.

When the Larissa Line (Thessaly) was started in 1890, Greek and other experts believed it would be an important link in the trans-European railroad system to the Levant and, via Port Said, to the Orient (the Constantinople-Baghdad railroad had not then been built)—involving less time than the Italian route. This belief was based on a supposed average railway speed of 50 kilometres per hour by rail and of 20 kilometres by ship. The actual Greek train speed, however, has proved to be only 26 kilometres, and the Greek passenger-boat service does not compare with the Italian. The dream for Piræus as an outlet for Central European trade was not realisable.

The *Economist* proposes: (1) That the same plans be now transferred to Salonika, which is only 80 kilometres from the Serbian border and nearer to Port Said by 353 kilometres than is Brindisi; (2) that the Salonika-Ghevgeli railway be improved to permit greater train speed—the Serbian trains already maintain a speed of 28 kilometres per hour, and would probably increase it if co-operation from the Greek line were effective; (3) that the other Greek railroads, existing or to be constructed, be organised as subsidiaries of the Salonika-Ghevgeli line and as feeders to the port of Salonika; (4) that the port itself be developed to take care of practically all maritime traffic in Northern Greece, and particularly of the transit traffic to and from Central Europe; (5) finally, that Greek shipowners be encouraged to co-operate by making their service from Salonika to Port Said equal or superior to that of the Italian fleet from Brindisi. It is hoped, by these measures, to secure and hold the greater part of Central European transit traffic with the Orient and reduce the danger of its loss to Italy through Brindisi or through the projected outlet ports on the Albanian coast.

The foregoing résumé has been confined to those railways now actually owned by the Greek Government. There is a possibility, however, that the State may shortly be further burdened with the operation of the Spap line (Société Pirée-Athènes-Peloponèse)—a privately owned railway system on the Peloponnesian Peninsula, whose privilege of exploitation expires in September, 1923. The line was taken over for operation by the Government as a war emergency and afterwards returned to the owners.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION AT ADANA.

The Acting British High Commissioner at Constantinople reports that an "International Exhibition for the Sale of Agricultural Products" will be held at Adana during the month of November. Both agricultural produce and farming implements are to be shown, and foreign interests are invited to exhibit agricultural machinery and farming implements, and space is being reserved to enable them to do so. Further details may be obtained by United Kingdom firms interested on application to the Department of Overseas Trade (Exhibitions and Fairs Division), 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1.

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BRITISH CLAIMS AGAINST TURKEY.

Prime Minister's Statement.

Sir Edwin Stockton, M.P., questioned the Government during the past session in regard to the settlement of British claims against Turkey under the Lausanne Treaty. Just before the House rose, the Prime Minister indicated, in the course of a statement, that the sum of £T5,000,000 had been placed at the disposal of the Allies for the purpose of meeting claims. This answer, however, left some points uncertain; and Sir Edwin wrote to the Prime Minister asking what other Allies participated in this sum, what was the British share, and whether claims against Turkey were the only ones which could be put forward in respect of our share of this £5,000,000. Sir Edwin has now received the following letter:—

Dear Sir Edwin Stockton,—The Prime Minister has asked me to write to you in order to give you the information for which you asked in your letter of the 4th inst.

The Allies who will participate in the sum of £5,000,000 Turkish in gold are Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, and Roumania. It is anticipated that the claims of Japan and Roumania will be exceedingly small. The Allies concerned are discussing an agreement whereby a Commission will be set up to distribute the sums available between the claimants in proportion to their claims as assessed by the Commission.

The Commission would consider all reparation claims against Turkey for direct loss and damage during the war (i.e., from August 1, 1914, up to the coming into force of the Treaty with Turkey) and also similar claims for loss and damage caused by the fire at Smyrna, in respect of which compensation has not been received from insurance companies.

It is quite true that the sums available will only enable the Commission to pay a percentage of the claims received, but the British Government were strongly impressed with the futility of trying to obtain promises on paper to pay large sums which the poverty-stricken Government of present-day Turkey would certainly be unable to carry out. On the opinion of the Government the claimants will be far better off by having a large sum, which is definitely available and in the hands of the Allies, set aside for their claims, than they would have been if they had received a theoretical right to obtain full compensation from Turkey. Past experience with Austria, Hungary, and Bulgaria, not to mention Germany, seems to show conclusively that in such cases from the point of view of the claimants a bird in the hand is worth any number of birds in the bush.—Yours truly (signed) R. P. H. Gowers.

GOOD CYPRUS HARVEST.

A report received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank from Nicosia, dated July 28, states:—

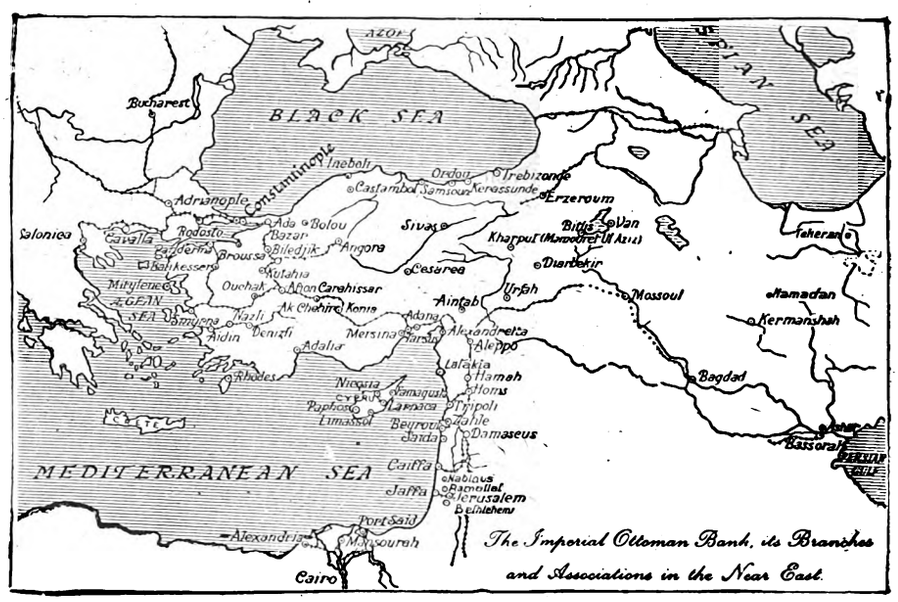
The 1923 harvest is one of the best on record, with the exception of the carob crop, which is estimated at 25 to 30 per cent. below that of last year. The commercial situation shows no signs of improvement.

This year's wheat harvest in Algeria is estimated at 10,000,000 quintals, compared with nearly 5,000,000 quintals last year.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Sugar Lower.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has continued in fair request. Tate's cubes have come to business at 58s., at which they are 1s. 6d. lower; London granulated has been done at 54s. 7½d., also 1s. 6d. below last week's price; while Lyle's granulated has shed 1s. 6d. at 54s. 10½d. Foreign descriptions have been easier. White Java is 2s. down at 49s. 9d., while Czech granulated is 1s. lower at 53s. 6d. Futures:—November, 21s. 1½d.; December, 21s. 3d.

Coffee.—A very steady tone has prevailed, and prices are unchanged, East Indian being 108s., Costa Rica 102s., Nairobi 90s., and Santos 65s.

Dried Fruit.—The position with regard to currants is about the same. As will be seen from a report which appears elsewhere on this page, the Greek crop is relatively poor.

Oilseeds.—Linseed has been variable, Indian being 1½d. down at 19s. 4½d., while La Plata has gained 3d. at 18s. 4½d. Rapeseed has been rather easier. Toria is 3d. lower at 15s. 9d., while real bold Ferozepore is also 3d. down at 15s. 9d. Cottonseed has been firm. Indian is 9s. 4½d., at which it is 3d. up. Egyptian black is unchanged at 10s. 10½d., while Sakellarides at 10s. 6d. has gained 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed is 6d. down at 40s. 6d. Rape oil is unchanged, with crude at 38s. and technical refined at 41s. Cotton oil is steady. Refined common edible is unchanged at 42s.. Egyptian crude is the same at 36s., technical remains at 38s., while deodorised is 44s.

Oil Cakes.—The market is without change. Linseed cake is 220s., coconut cake is 170s., while cottonseed cake is 155s.

THE ROUMANIAN HARVEST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bucharest, August 20.

The harvest of wheat, rye, and barley was practically finished by the end of July, and the crops have been, generally speaking, fairly good, both as regards quality and quantity. In the Banat it is said that the wheat gave an average of 4,000 kilogrammes per hectare, a figure which has not been reached since 1886. The maize crop in the Old Kingdom is expected to be good, but in Transylvania it is suffering from drought. There has been no rain in that province for five weeks. The potato and beetroot crops are good, but the tree fruit crops are not up to the average.

The export tax on maize has been reduced by a law published on August 5 from 30,000 to 20,000 lei per waggon of 10 tons.

SMYRNA FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows under date August 11:—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas in the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 125 tons, and the sales to date are 88 tons. Quotations f.o.b. Smyrna are: "Beta," 53s. cwt.; "Gamma," 49s. cwt. The market has opened quietly. Arrivals are not expected to become general until towards the end of the month, when slightly lower prices are likely to rule. First arrivals of figs are due on the market on the 20th inst.

A later report, dated August 20, states that the arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market up to August 18 amounted to 600 tons. Prices are: 1, 49s. cwt.; 2, 46s.; 3, 43s. Arrivals from Yerli districts started coming forward this week. The fruit is of very bright colour, but this will not be maintained in the case of later arrivals. Per contra, fruit should show better development. The market is quiet. Consuming countries are slow in passing orders, probably relying on the usual volume of unsold consignments. Shippers, however, are few in number, and show a disposition to act with considerable reserve, calculating on consuming markets being bound to come in to buy sooner or later. Prices are reaching an attractive level from which a reaction may follow.

POOR GREEK CURRANT CROP.

The yield of this year's Greek currant crop is expected to be considerably below the normal. Mr. P. A. Burlumi, of Messrs. Burlumi and Co., in an interview with a representative of THE NEAR EAST, stated that the crop is estimated at 85-90,000 tons, or about 20 per cent. less than last year. "Fortunately for the consumer," he added, "the exchange is so greatly in favour of this country, and prices, in spite of the insufficient crop, are much lower than last year. While at the beginning of last season the quotation for the provincial growth was 55s. per cwt. f.o.b. Greece, the price recorded to-day for the same growth of new crop is only 43s. f.o.b.

"Stocks in this country are very small at the present time, and, of course, the growers, having such a reduced crop, will insist on higher prices as soon as they cover their immediate needs by the sale of part of their crop. Shipments will be later than usual this year, the crop being rather late. The reason for the indifferent crop is that *peronosporos* has done considerable damage in the vineyards."

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for June:—

Dura and Dukhn.

Blue Nile Province.—Dura brought into Moradas during May and June in ardebs of 300 rotls (135 kilos): Wad Medani, 17,235; Hassa Heissa, 19,794. A good deal of propaganda work has been done calling the attention of cultivators to the necessity of keeping smutty heads out of their dura and a large number of trial plots will be sown with dura treated with copper sulphate to prevent smut. Very good progress has been made with the erection of the new cleaning plants at Hassa Heissa and Wad Medani; the former is now ready and the latter is expected to be finished before the end of July.

White Nile Province.—707 ardebs of 384 rotls (173 kilos.) were exported from Dueim during the month and 35 ardebs from Kosti.

Kordofan Province.—132 ardebs of 420 rotls (189 kilos) were sold in El Obeid market during the month, the average price being £E1.200 m/ms. per ardeb.

Sesame.

Fung Province.—May and June: 226 tons of sesame were exported by rail from Makwar River siding during May.

Kordofan Province.—Red sesame sold in El Obeid market for £E1.450 m/ms. per ardeb of 330 rotls (149 kilos).

Ground Nuts.

Kordofan Province.—161 ardebs of ground nuts were sold in El Obeid Market at an average price of 650 m/ms. per ardeb of 210 rotls (94 kilos).

Upper Nile Province.—129 tons of ground nuts were exported during the month.

Dates.

Dongola Province.—There is every prospect of an excellent date crop this year as the trees throughout the province are bearing well. The chief fear now is damage by heavy rains. Average price of Barakawi dates per 100 kilos was £E1.400 m/ms.

Halfa Province.—The crops are reported most excellent and abundant. Market prices were as follows (per sack of 140—145 kilos):—Barakawi, £E2.200; Gondeila, £E3.000; Gargoda, £E1.900.

Reuter's Athens correspondent reports that a contract for the Piræus harbour works has been practically concluded with a group of French firms, including that of the famous steel works Schneider and Co. and the Régie Générale des Chemins de Fer.

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Shipping Intelligence.

THE EGYPTIAN TOURIST TRAFFIC.

Suez Harbour Works.

Although it is difficult to form more than an approximate idea of the total number of tourists who come to Egypt for, or during, the winter season (says Mr. E. Homan Mulock, British Commercial Agent for Egypt, in a review of Egyptian shipping), it is estimated that, thanks partly to the efforts of the Egypt Promotion Association, and partly to the attraction afforded by the wonderful discoveries at Luxor, the total for the 1922-23 season will amount to about 12,000, and constitute an increase on the 1921-22 numbers. These figures are, however, very much below those of pre-war seasons, owing partly to the absence of tourists from Austria, Germany and Russia, and partly to the fact that those from the United Kingdom and the United States of America are not favoured by the exchange in Egypt. Tourist traffic has been considerably facilitated and fostered by the enterprise shown by the White Star and Cunard Lines in establishing their own agencies in this country for the duration of the current season, and by arranging for giant liners such as the Mauretania, Homeric, and others, to call at Alexandria.

Since the cancellation in June, 1922, of the original contract awarded to a Dutch firm in October, 1918, for the extension of Suez harbour, including an oiling basin to accommodate seven oil-tankers simultaneously, the completion of the scheme has been in abeyance. The Government has now decided to carry out a large part of the works *en regie*, with its own staff and material.

GERMANY AND TRADE ROUTES TO THE EAST.

The possible orientation of Germany towards the East is discussed in an article in the "Journal of Commerce," which points out that while Germany continues feverishly to reconstruct her mercantile marine, "there are many people in Germany who no longer accept the theory that the future of the country 'lies on the water,' but that it is to be sought rather in the Near East, which is the gateway to the Far East, and that, therefore, the trend of German policy must follow that direction. The same applies to all the Central European States. There is a close economic connection between Central Europe and the Near East, the one, in fact, complementing the other.

"From the economic point of view, the Near East offers many advantages to Central Europe, and not the least important are those afforded by the Black Sea district. . . . At present the whole of the Black Sea district is suffering from the effects of the war, but these will be overcome, and when the normal processes of trade are resumed Russia will be exporting instead of importing, as at present, the surplus of her agricultural produce, and Asia Minor, to say nothing of Bulgaria and Roumania, will be deriving the benefits of the methods of intensive cultivation which are now gradually being adopted. This increased production will very largely find its market in Central Europe in exchange for manufactured goods.

"The natural route along which this exchange of commodities will take place is the Danube and the Black Sea. Already improvements are being made on the Danube with these developments in view. River craft with a larger carrying capacity are being built, and as soon as the volume of traffic increases, transportation facilities on sea-going lighters will be arranged from the mouth of the Danube to Bulgarian ports, Constantinople, and Odessa. Plans are in contemplation, and even in progress, for making the larger tributaries of the Danube,—the Save, Drave, Theiss, and Moldau—navigable over long stretches, and the Rhine-Danube and Elbe-Danube canals will contribute their respective quotas of traffic. This Danube-Black Sea water-way will provide Central Europe with an East means of access to the Near East, and the facilities could be increased by a canal connection between the Black Sea and the Caspian, whence the heart of Asia could be reached."

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 8).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 1); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 11); s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 12); s.s. Rialto for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, September 15).

British India Line.—S.s. Mantola for Bombay and Karachi (London, August 31); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 1); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 14).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Mackinnon for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Dido for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, September 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo (Birkenhead, September 4).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, September 8); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, September 8).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Incemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 8), s.s. Kenmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 26).

Moss Line.—S.s. Esnah for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, Port Said, Jaffa, Haifa, Beyrout, and Cyprus (Liverpool, September 4).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. City of Oxford for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, September 1); s.s. Flaminian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, August 25).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, September 7); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 8); s.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 21).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Jaffa, Haifa, and Beyrout (London, August 29).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

African and Eastern Trade Corporation.

The report of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., for the year 1922 states that the profit was £739,774, after taking into account the adjustment of excess profits duty so far accomplished, and after allowing for the usual depreciation on property and the writing down of all stocks to current market values. Buildings, steamers and boats, etc., have, as usual, been kept up out of revenue. After payment of the preference dividends for the year and the provision of £200,000 for further depreciation on stocks, the credit balance remaining is £452,456. In April last an interim dividend of 4 per cent. was paid on the ordinary shares, thus leaving available for further distribution £347,425.

During the past year trade conditions in the world generally have been disappointing, and the immediate outlook continues to be uncertain. The directors have consequently deemed it prudent to transfer £300,000 from the reserve fund, in order to make what they believe to be ample provision for further contingencies. The general depression during 1922 has affected adversely the trading results of some of the subsidiary companies belonging to the corporation, and consequent upon this the directors have thought it desirable to reduce further the book values of the investments in those companies, and for this purpose have appropriated £670,000 from the general reserve. In the accounts provision has also been made of £250,000 to meet the claims on the corporation during the next three years for income-tax on the excess profits duty repayments, so far received by the corporation and credited to the subsidiary companies. After adjusting these amounts the reserve fund, including insurance and depreciation funds, now stands at £2,547,684. The directors now recommend a final dividend for the year of 4 per cent., less tax, payable October 1, making 8 per cent., leaving to be carried forward £242,394.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 643—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Italy and Greece.

By allowing her native excitability to run riot over the Epirus murders Italy has done herself and friendly Powers the gravest disservice. She is a country of nearly thirty-nine million inhabitants; Greece has less than six millions. The moral responsibility of the Greek Government for the crime committed in Greek territory was established, and the reparation that Italy was entitled and in a position to exact would have lost nothing from being enforced in a deliberate and dignified manner. No one has been impressed by the excessive vindictiveness of the ultimatum, by the hasty occupation of a Greek island, or, still less, by the utterly unjustifiable bombardment of an undefended town. Such acts might have been expected of one Central American State wishing to seize an advantage in its quarrel with another, but are quite unworthy of a Great Power which shares with other Great Powers the obligation of setting an example to the more backward countries of Europe of correct international procedure. The murder of the Italian military mission engaged in the delimitation of the Greco-Albanian frontier was a crime only too typical of conditions in the Balkans. As the nationals of a European Great Power were the victims—apart altogether from their employment on behalf of the Council of Ambassadors—it was most desirable that the public sense of Europe should show its indignation at the outrage, and take the most effective means to eradicate from the Balkans the lawlessness of which the murder was the outcome. Italy, however, has chosen to act herself *more Balkanico*, and for the murder of an Italian general and four others has proceeded to kill a handful of Greek refugees in the town of Corfu. The Italian Government can hardly fail to realise that, while by such action it may pander to national excitement, it has lost caste in the eyes of the world.

The Balkans on Guard.

The chief sufferer from the Italian Government's mistake will be Italy. She will learn that Europe is not still in 1914 and that she herself is not Germany. She has played her Balkan cards badly since the War, and she may never retrieve this blunder. In the rôle of a Great Power there was much to be said for her occupying a special position in the Balkans, and by economic co-operation assisting in their reconstruction. By her handling of her quarrel with Greece she has shown that she can set no example to a Balkan State, and has merely proved herself a greater danger to the general peace of Europe than any of them through being possessed of greater military and naval strength. There is, therefore, only one course for the Balkan States to adopt, and that is to safeguard themselves against Italian bullying and aggression by forming a confederation whose combined strength Italy will have to respect. The bombardment of Corfu should provide an effective stimulus to this end; but first of all there must be for each Balkan State a certain amount of setting one's house in order before confederation can be carried through.

The Komitaji Curse.

The Italian Press makes a great mistake in supposing that the British attitude to the Greco-Italian episode has been coloured by partiality for Greece. On the contrary, it has been a blow to Great Britain to find herself in disagreement with Italy. Nowhere does the crime of which the Italian military mission have been the victims arouse greater indignation than in Great Britain, and the British Government would not have hesitated to endorse all proper steps to secure full reparation for Italy. The Italian ultimatum, however, was not the work of a Government concerned to uphold the dignity of the Great Powers in dealing with a lawless outrage committed in a small country. It contained, rather, the concentrated venom of years of hatred and deliberately aimed at the utmost humiliation that could be imposed upon Greece. But if the ultimatum was a mistake, the bombardment of Corfu was a deliberate crime the first effect of which is to place the murder of the Italians in Epirus for the moment in the background. So incredible is it that Italy should make such a blunder, that there is a tendency to imagine that her action is part of a scheme to carry out imperialist designs in the Adriatic and the Mediterranean. These mis-

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givings need not worry Europe, for, sooner or later, it will be possible to appeal from Philip drunk to Philip sober. In the meantime the League of Nations must not lose sight of the root cause of the whole trouble—the connivance of Balkan Governments in the existence of frontier *komitaji* bands. This curse of the Balkans must now be dealt with finally. The terms that Italy would impose on Greece by way of reparation may appeal to the self-glorification of a petty mind; but Europe should see to it that her say in the matter will aim not at the humiliation of Greece, but at her betterment and at the eradication for all time from all Balkan countries of what is a standing menace to the peace of the world.

Removing a Reproach.

The good sense of the Balkan States, we may hope, will have been so aroused by the Greco-Italian episode that they will not wait for a lead from outside to deal with this *komitaji* curse. Far too long has the facile habit been indulged in of allowing official policy to be stultified by unofficial acts. Officially every country is at peace with its neighbour and would resent the insinuation that it desired any other than peaceful relations. But whether from indifference, from incompetence or of set purpose, no Balkan Government seems to be sufficiently exercised over irregularities that are committed by its nationals--not always unofficial persons—in connection with minorities or frontier questions. If there have been malpractices in Western Thrace or Epirus, there is no reason to suppose that they have been deliberately inspired by the Athens Government; but it would be idle to imagine that the latter is ignorant of what is taking place. Again, when the Yugoslav Government is accused by its political opponents of killing off its Macedonian subjects in South-Eastern Serbia, whatever has lent colour to the charge is probably due to the people on the spot—officials they may well be—acting on their own initiative, but certain of not being checked nor reprimanded from Belgrade. Sooner or later retribution will follow; it may take the form of foreign complications, as in the case of Greece's policy in Northern Epirus, or it may be as a weapon forged for political opponents at home. The game is not worth the candle. If a Government is looking for trouble, let it court it openly; if it claims to be peaceful, let it make sure that its nationals, and above all its officials, keep the peace. It does not seem to be sufficiently realised that it is in the main this irresponsible action of officials and the existence of *komitaji* bands that have caused the Balkans to be a byword in Europe.

The Policy for Greece.

There can be no question as to the course of action that Greece ought to adopt in the face of Italy's threats. She will be wise to accept all the demands made of her, with the single exception of the monetary payment, which is as far beyond her capacity to pay as it is preposterous on the part of Italy to make the demand. Submission entails less humiliation, in view of the manifest severity of the terms, if it is made at once without quibbling. She should have nothing to fear from the presence of an Italian officer on the commission of inquiry, and she can have no objection to imposing the death penalty on the murderers, if and when they are captured. As for compensation, she can leave the amount to be paid to the decision of the League of Nations, as it is unlikely that Italy will continue to flout the public opinion of Europe by insisting upon her original sum. For the rest, the episode must serve Greece as a warning that she must lose no time in setting her house in order, in addition to the immediate suppression of *komitaji* bands. She knows now the extent of the Italian menace, and can only hope to safeguard herself in the future by means of a Balkan federation. To this end she must be prepared to make sacrifices to ensure permanent agreement with Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, so that the three countries and Roumania may form for purposes of foreign policy a single unit, speaking and acting for an aggregate of forty million people.

Britain and Turkey.

Great Britain has been fortunate in having Sir Charles Harington in command of the troops in Constantinople during the critical period that has followed the Turkish victories in Asia Minor. To his tact and vision the success of the Mudania Conference was mainly due, and since then he has shown even higher qualities of statesmanship in steering clear of the many pitfalls that have been provided by the anomalous situation in Constantinople. He has been charged in some quarters, no doubt, for having displayed too much complacency in the face of Turkish aggression, but we imagine that few people in full possession of all the facts, and realising the trend of affairs in the Near East, will hold that any other policy would have been equally successful in bringing about immediate peace in the Near East. As things are, it is an asset to both countries that relations between Great Britain and Turkey are good, and for this fact the thanks of the nation are owed in no stinted measure to General Harington.

Prohibition in Turkey.

It would be surprising if Turkey found in actual practice that Prohibition was as easy a matter as the first Angora Assembly imagined. When it became a question of applying to Constantinople the dry régime which had proved simple to introduce in Anatolia under war conditions, the Assembly began to learn that there were more things in Europe and the rest of the earth than were dreamt of in its philosophy. Now that the war incentive has been removed, new Turkey will discover that unexpected complications are apt to crop up even nearer home. Considerable sympathy will be felt with her over this question of Prohibition. If any country adopts it, it ought to be Turkey, with the moral force of the Koran behind her. As a practical measure, however, it would call for far greater conviction on the subject in the public mind and a more efficient administration than is likely to be met with in Turkey for some time to come. In these circumstances a compromise is clearly the wisest solution for the present. All honour is due to Hoja Mussa Kiazim, Minister of Religious Affairs, if it be true that he has resigned in protest against the changed attitude on the subject of Prohibition; his action is a credit to his country, and suggests that principles and convictions may yet play their part in new Turkey.

Egypt and the Hejaz.

It is satisfactory to know that the Egyptian and Hejaz Governments are trying to adjust the quarrel which arose over the dispatch of the Holy Carpet to Mecca. At best the incident was a storm in a teacup. Egypt has been accustomed in the past to send a medical mission with the *Mahmal*, but this year, owing partly to a misunderstanding on the part of the Hejaz and partly to an excess of zeal among the Egyptian officials connected with the pilgrimage, the Hejaz Government took exception to the presence of a larger medical mission than usual, and refused to allow it to proceed. The

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Egyptian Government thereupon withdrew the whole pilgrimage contingent from Egypt and with it the grant in money that it has hitherto contributed annually in connection with the pilgrimage. It was obviously out of place that such a quarrel should last, and the two Governments have shown their good sense in reopening negotiations on the subject.

Irak and Persia.

The mediation of Sir Percy Loraine and the tact of King Faisal promise to effect a settlement of a matter which is embarrassing both to Persia and Irak. A number of Persian priests at Nejef and Kerbela left Irak as a protest against the Government's action in deporting a leading Persian high priest for interfering with the elections. Arrived in Persia, they appear to have attributed their presence there as due entirely to British machinations, with a view, no doubt, to arousing wider sympathy among the Persians, with whom at present the British are not in high favour. As the incident was giving rise, quite unjustifiably, of course, to anti-British demonstrations, Sir Percy Loraine, British Minister at Teheran, went to Baghdad to discuss the subject with the Irak Government. As a result of his visit, it would appear, a deputation from King Faisal has proceeded to Kum, where the Persian ulema are staying, in order to make it possible for the latter to return to Irak. Such satisfactory progress is being made with the Irak elections since the deportation of Sheikh Mahdi al Khalisi, that it was probably not difficult to satisfy the protesting priests that they had been too precipitate in their action.

M. Rakovski.

We are reminded by a correspondent that M. Krastu Rakovski, to whose appointment as Soviet representative in London the British Government has now withdrawn its objection, was originally a Bulgarian. Born in Kotel, he was educated first in that village and later at Gabrovo, subsequently going abroad to study law and medicine. He is the great-nephew of a noted Bulgarian patriot, poet, and writer, Sava Rakovski, who prompted and organised the revolt against Turkish rule and has one of the chief streets in Sofia named after him. The father of the Soviet representative was a farmer in the Dobruja. M. Krastu Rakovski himself went to live in Roumania, and served his period of military service in that country. Early in life he adopted Socialist views, and in Roumania became a leader of the Socialists. A dispute arose at one time as to his nationality, owing to a desire on the part of the Roumanian authorities to deport him to Bulgaria; but his military service was accepted as evidence of his Roumanian nationalisation. During the War he was imprisoned in Roumania for his ultra-Socialist views, and when liberated joined the Soviets, with whom he has since worked.

The Religious Tension in India.

The news of widespread rioting during the celebration of the Muharram in Northern India does not come as a surprise, in view of the existing tension between the largest communities in the country. Logically, of course, the Hindus are not concerned, except as spectators, in what is essentially a demonstration by one Moslem sect against another, but the unfortunate thing is that the celebrants are bound by custom and tradition to work themselves into a state of religious frenzy, and logic counts for nothing when once that condition has been reached. It is clear that the United Provinces administration was prepared for trouble, and the actual disorder has been promptly suppressed, but the worst feature of such occurrences is the legacy of hate they leave behind. Three centuries ago, a European observer recorded the fact that at Agra no Hindu dare venture into the streets during the final celebrations of the Muharram, and if the recent exacerbation of feeling continues that statement may once again become true. One reads from time to time of praiseworthy local efforts towards conciliation; but so far we have heard of nothing which can be described as a national lead in that direction.

The Release of Mohamed Ali.

At this juncture exceptional interest attaches to the release of Mohamed Ali, the most determined leader of the anti-European movement among Indian Moslems, who has served the sentence of imprisonment inflicted two years ago, substantially reduced, we are glad to read, as the result of his exemplary conduct while in gaol. Of late years he has stood out as protagonist of a union between Hindus and Moslems, a union inspired by common hatred rather than by mutual respect or esteem, but his leadership was not universally popular among Hindus, and his energies were devoted mainly to the Khilafat agitation. His future action may prove to be of real importance. It is unlikely that he will retire into private life, and he may either resume his old agitation on the strength of such remnants of Moslem grievances as may have survived the settlement at Lausanne, or be drawn into the religious feud which has developed so seriously since he last appeared on the platform. Neither of these alternatives is attractive, though the latter is by far the more dangerous, and perhaps it is allowable to hope that he may decide to settle down as a constitutional politician, and work for national union on the only basis that can endure.

Old and New India.

The struggle between the Old India and the New, which is the outstanding feature of the country to-day, crops up in the most out-of-the-way places, and furnishes some extraordinary contrasts. Rajputana is the stronghold of Old India, and Udaipur is regarded as old-fashioned even in Rajputana, but the State has lately been afflicted by an outbreak of up-to-date Communism and the

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establishment of self-constituted authorities, which have been described not unfairly as Soviets. The Parsees of Bombay are perhaps the most enlightened community in India, progressive in politics as in commerce, but the majority of them have been driven to fury by a proposal to provide facilities for cremation, as an alternative to the traditional method of disposing of their dead by exposure to vultures, a method, by the way, which is equally repugnant to all classes of their neighbours. Udaipur claims to have suppressed its Soviets with comparatively little trouble, and the Parsees are not to have a crematorium for the present, but such incidents as these, unimportant in themselves, are still useful as reminders that the establishment of a homogeneous, self-governing democracy in India may require some little time and patience.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Italian Flare.

Not even in the likeliest quarters in England can you find any enthusiasm over the prospect of a possible war between Italy and Greece. Quite obviously, this generation has had enough of war and talk of war, and considers anyone leaning to such things rather a nuisance. Not that there is much spoken disapproval of Signor Mussolini's actions—we are all cynical enough now to know that one invokes the League of Nations when it is to one's own interest, and equally disregards it when convenient.

Naturally, but also without effect, the moralists and the busybodies have been up in arms at Italy's high measures. Signor Mussolini, the mode of whose access to power was never quite approved by the staid minds of this country, has given to our pacifists and "liberals" a beautiful chance of heaping abuse on him, and in the most sermonical of language they have not failed to take advantage of it. But what the ordinary Briton thinks of it all is hard to discover. He scarcely judges it from the lofty standard of justice; he knows he has not much use for the Greeks; he seems to remember Capporetto, but thinks Signor Mussolini rather a fine man, although if he is going to indulge in the monkey tricks of another war we shall have to be against Italy also! In short, the ordinary man is still incurably ignorant and of little account.

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But perhaps it is not so strange that we, or rather our Press, should, as a whole, be against the sharp display of the Italian Premier. Certainly nowhere else does he find such opponents as here. Yet a moment's thought brings you to a clash of British and Italian ambitions in the Mediterranean, and if we have given up the scheme of installing ourselves. via Greece, as mistress of the Eastern Mediterranean, we are still far from disposed to acquiesce in Italian supremacy there. Signor Mussolini may be, undoubtedly is, a good Italian, but when he comes up against us he ceases—so we say—to be a good European. But we must go very carefully in thus preaching to Italy: we may want her help some day, and threat of an economic boycott is not exactly the way in which to lay the foundations of future friendship.

Ireland.

The elections in Ireland are now over, and, although the Republicans have done far better than our purblind journalists believed possible, the Treaty has in the main been endorsed by the Irish electors. This is something, but not so very much. There is nothing indisputable about the Government majority, and the President of the Free State can hardly ask the world to witness how his country supports his policy. Nearly fifty Republicans were elected, despite the application of somewhat Balkanic methods to various Republican leaders.

But we must be thankful for small mercies, and a condition of affairs in which Ireland, if still divided, is quiet and hopeful, is something so new as to be indeed refreshing. The dream of a united Ireland is still unrealised, yet, though there must be much trouble before it is brought about, the finest minds in both Ireland and England still believe in it, and are working for it.

The Increase of Unemployment.

Already the prophets of industrial woe are in full cry over the prospects of the coming winter. And the signs are certainly disquieting enough. At this moment, when normally unemployment should be at its lowest point, it is actually on the increase; orders for winter work in the factories are not coming in; and persons not given to extravagant reasoning anticipate a rise by the beginning of 1924 to two million unemployed.

We in the South do not see this problem of unemployment closely enough to make us shudder, but in the Midlands and in the North it is the despair of thousands of lives. Not much good is done by deploring, as so often we are content to do, the striking tactics of the workmen, or the greed of the employers; the capitalistic system is with us, and unless we are prepared to break it, we must make the best of it. Many people are looking to the Government to solve, or at least to alleviate, the problem, but that is an unfair attitude. The Government can indeed affect the immediate nature of the question, but to its permanent or future aspect they can make little difference. For the improvement of that we must wait for the stability of foreign markets, and we may have to wait for some time.

Anæmia in Women.

The fact was published the other day that chlorosis, the anæmia of young women, is disappearing both from Europe and America, and all sorts of satisfied, gallant articles were written in the Press about "healthier womanhood," and that kind of thing. Without any doubt at all our young women are in some ways healthier than their mothers and their grandmothers used to be—for two things, their dress generally, and their conduct sometimes, are so much more sensible—but

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one is never quite certain in such matters whether as much has not been lost on the swings as has been gained on the roundabouts. Our grandmothers had anæmia, they say, and sighed, and fainted; but are not our young maidens afflicted by repressed complexes and the like? Women certainly do change more than men, but travel rather in a circle than along an upward line. After all it was just these "anæmic," despised creatures of the last generation who are responsible for the incomparable superiority of our own.

The Season-Ticket Controversy.

Unpopularity was earned in many quarters by the recent amalgamation of the railway companies, and the latest proposal, to "standardise" season-tickets, is meeting with very hostile criticism. The companies, being asked to submit a standard mileage scale of rates for season tickets, did so, and the result is that, although in some cases the cost of season tickets would be reduced, in most cases an increase would be effected. Such a prospect the ordinary traveller to town cannot endure, and it is certainly hard that, at this distance from the War, increased fares should add to his troubled lot.

But it is by no means certain that the proposed alterations will be put into effect, because local elasticity is always allowed by the companies, and, moreover, the rates which they put into their schedule are maximum rates. It seems strange that there has never been in this country anything like a standard in charges for season tickets, and some such proposal as is now being mooted must one day befall us—so inevitable is the progress of uniformity—but not yet: we have suffered too much in too short a time!

The Decay of Civilisation.

There was a time when the Fabian Society had significance in the structure of modern thought, but before the War it had become *démodé*, and now it is hopelessly *passé*. Not for its own sake, therefore, but for the sake of its subject, is its proposal to debate, in October and November, the question "Is Civilisation Decaying?" attracting a certain amount of attention. Of course the question has been topical for some time. Those intellectuals not sociologically minded have for some time been inclined to answer with a puzzled "Yes" to the question; and even poets, who used to say that the victory of the Allies in the War saved civilisation, are not now so sure. European civilisation was certainly saved, but there is a disposition abroad now, to question, not indeed whether the glory of that salvation was worth it, but whether the civilisation that has once more fastened round the life of Europe (and of America) is worth preserving. The desire to return to simpler, more leisurely ways of living is now very deep, though whether such a return might be made to coincide with a mere decay of the present civilisation is doubtful. Certainly the Fabians, whatever they may say about our civilisation, will be wide of the mark, for the only result of their practices is to make life more complex.

The Roads of England.

It is comforting to know that, in spite of the huge increase in the number of motor-cars on the roads, there are still people who prefer to travel England on foot. The motorist is often a very pleasant fellow, but seldom a very wise or discerning one, and this because most things and people in life come alike to him. But the walker has time to notice the differences in places and in folk, and does not, consequently, cease to wonder at the infinite variety of England. A certain Mr. Cummings has just travelled across England on foot, quite in the old style, for a wager, and the event caused more genuine interest than many a motor-car race.

This revival of walking is, of course, being seized upon by the boot manufacturers, who are said recently to have begun to despair of Englishmen ever extensively using their feet again. But now we are hearing such slogans as "Walk well and keep well," and similar advice, which redounds to the benefit of the manufacturer.

The Creation of Rubbish.

Nothing is more offensive to the ordered eye than the presence in beautiful places of litter or rubbish, but few things are more difficult than to make the man in the street realise how offensive he is when he distributes paper, or orange peel, or sardine tins broadcast. Tidiness in the London parks, for instance, is preserved at the cost of thousands of pounds a year, and recently we have had cases of the fining of people for making a litter. It seems a little thing, the tearing up and throwing away of a letter or the dropping of peanut shells, but it has been sufficient to secure a conviction in the police courts. This is not tyrannical legislation; it is completely justified by the plea of public dignity.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Greek Government has proclaimed martial law throughout Greece.

The Emir Abdullah arrived at Jerusalem last week as the guest of Mr. Ronald Storrs, Governor of Jerusalem.

Zaghloul Pasha has telegraphed to his Committee in Cairo that he is sailing from Marseilles on September 12 for Egypt.

Owing, it is reported, to divergences of view with the Minister of Religion, the Metropolitan of Athens has resigned.

It is reported that negotiations are going on in Kishineff, Russia, in regard to the transit of trade to Italy through Roumania.

Although denied by the Soviet Government a report from Moscow says that the revolt of the Basmaches in Turkestan continues.

King Fuad received Lord Headley in Cairo on August 28, when the latter recounted to his Majesty his experiences as a pilgrim to Mecca.

A circular has been issued to Mudirs and Governors by the Egyptian Prime Minister enjoining the strictest impartiality during the election campaign.

Sir Capel Wolseley, Bart., who died from injuries received on August 27 while cycling at Blythburgh, Suffolk, was the hon. treasurer of the European Schools in India Association.

A Baghdad message says that since August 22 there have been 105 deaths from cholera at Basrah, forty-eight at Abadan, and eight at Mohammerah. No further cases have been reported.

An official denial is issued at Belgrade of reports that rebel Montenegrins had taken the town of Antivaria, and had then been driven out of it again by gendarmerie and the population.

The Bulgarian Legation in London is officially instructed categorically to deny the reports with regard to an agreement between Italy and Bulgaria against Yugoslavia, these reports having no foundation of truth whatsoever.

The Turkish Government has cancelled all decorations awarded by former *régimes* and will grant no more decorations to foreign nationals. The only decoration recognised is the Independence Medal instituted by the new Government.

The "Civil and Military Gazette" of India is appealing for subscriptions for the purchase of a motor-car (and to guarantee running costs) for the professional use of Mrs. Starr (the rescuer of Miss Ellis) and her colleagues at the C.M.S. Hospital at Peshawar.

Poppy Day will be officially celebrated in India on Armistice Eve and Day. An Army Order has been issued giving permission to the troops to wear poppies in their helmets for the occasion. The collections will be given to the Ex-Service Association, Affiliated to the British Legion.

The date of the Greek General Election has been fixed for October 28, and M. Zaimis has informed the Revolutionary Committee that he has definitely decided to take part in the elections as leader of a reconciliation party. The Government will carry on until the elections.

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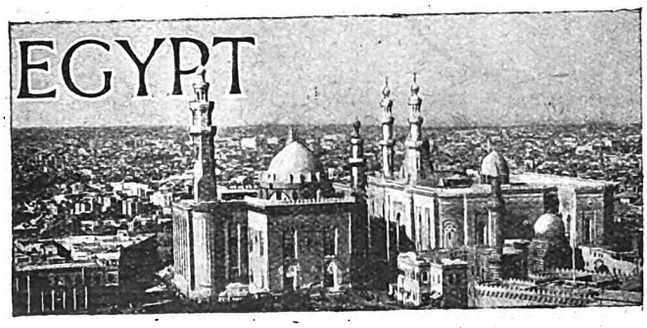
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 23.

The Moheb Affair.

Political sensations serve their turn and are forgotten. The *affaire Moheb* has been no exception to the rule. A week ago the newspapers devoted half their space to the doings and sayings of the ex-Minister of Finance. To-day he is almost unremembered. There are merely a few final splutterings, like the fitful flashes and dying rumblings of a thunderstorm that has passed. The controversy has had one definite result. It has enabled the Prime Minister to consolidate his position, which has latterly been subjected to attacks from various quarters. Yehia Pasha's remonstrance to the Residency regarding its interference in the affairs of the Cabinet has been welcomed by the whole Press, which sees therein a new proof of Egypt's independence, and an indication of the Prime Minister's will and courage to "keep his end up" *vis-à-vis* the British representative in this country. The present Government appears, therefore, to be more firmly in the saddle than ever before. It is receiving the support of several newspapers which have until lately been the upholders of the Wafd, whose funds are said to have run low. The Zaghloulist Party is now supported only by a few of the less important sheets, while the leading newspapers, such as *Ahram*, *Mokattam*, *Siassa*, and *Akhbar*, are, as in the case of the two first-named, and the last, independent, while the third is the organ of the Constitutional Liberal Party. None of the papers indicated ever supported the Wafd very wholeheartedly, but two years ago it was possible for the Zaghloulists so heavily to subsidise their own organs that they could compete with the journals named. That is no longer the case. Even the Wafd's French organ, *La Liberté*, seems now to have deserted the party whose principles it has hitherto defended, and to have gone over to the Government's side.

Rushdy Pasha's "Plot."

Hussein Rushdy Pasha, of whom little has been heard of late, has suddenly emerged into the open with a letter to the Press which, in less eventful times, would have attracted more attention than has been given it. Atef Bey Barakat, of the Wafd executive, recently publicly accused Rushdy Pasha of being a liar, a traitor to his country, of having cheated the ex-Khedive out of part of his property, and, worst crime of all, of having remarked, when Zaghloul Pasha was exiled to the Seychelles, "This is a glorious day for Egypt." Rushdy Pasha was not slow in returning a Roland for an Oliver, and, in the course of his reply, wrote, "Let Atef Bey know, if he does not know it, that I should have been hanged long ago, if the British had been able to discover everything that I was doing in the political world, for my acts constituted a veritable plot against the Martial Law which I was officially charged to administer."

It is hard to believe that Rushdy Pasha wishes to be taken seriously.

The Elections.

The postponement of the elections, to which I alluded a fortnight ago, is the chief subject of political discussion at the moment. The reason for the delay is, as I pointed out, that the electoral rolls have been very badly drawn up. They are so full of inaccuracies and omissions that in most cases they have had to be compiled again, from the beginning. Electoral committees have been established in each district, but it seems that the members of the committees have left practically the whole of the work to the Sheiyoukh el harat (the sheikhs in charge of districts), part of whose duties it is to know every householder in the areas of which they are in charge. It appears that these sheikhs have made a terrible mess of their work, including in the lists names of persons who have been dead for years, others who have never had any existence, and making such numerous spelling mistakes that it is impossible to identify names on the lists with those of actual residents. An example of the chaos is furnished by the Karmouz district of Alexandria, where of 19,000 names on the rolls 12,500 cannot be traced. The Prime Minister has addressed a very strong circular letter to Governors and Mudirs, pointing out the shortcomings of the officials entrusted with the work, and insisting that those guilty of negligence shall be punished. At the same time orders have been given that new rolls are to be submitted within a fortnight.

Yehia Pasha, in an interview the other day, said that he hoped it would be possible to complete the first stage of the elections by the middle of September. The elections proper would then take place, for deputies in November and for Senators in December, Parliament assembling early in January. It is generally thought that this estimate is somewhat optimistic, the chaos which has arisen over the electoral rolls holding out little promise of subsequent stages of the elections proceeding very smoothly. Incidentally, the Prime Minister denied a report, which apparently originated in a letter to *The Times*, signed by "Egyptophile," that has been cabled out to one of the Arabic newspapers, that reactionary influences are at work to postpone indefinitely the assembling of Parliament.

Assistance for Cotton Growers.

The Government is contemplating further steps to assist the cotton industry. It has already initiated a scheme by which growers are able to

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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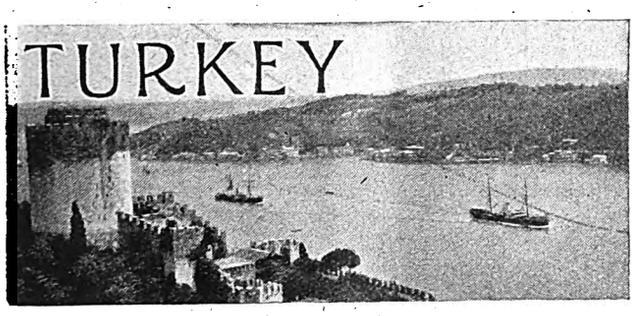
obtain advances up to 50 per cent. of the market value of their cotton, thus enabling them to hold the crop in the hope of better price levels. Its recent entry into the market as a buyer on a large scale is also an attempt in the same direction. It is reported that the small growers in the provinces are not taking advantage of the opportunity to raise money on their cotton, preferring to sell outright for the full value rather than obtain temporary assistance to the extent of only 50 per cent. of the market price. A demand is being made that the amount advanced should be increased from 50 per cent. to 75 per cent. of the value, and the Government is now considering this proposition; but it is difficult to believe that it will be adopted. Other suggested measures are Government control of the Bourse, control of dealing in "futures," the creation of a data-collecting bureau, etc. As may be imagined, the commercial community in Alexandria views with some apprehension the reported intention of the Government to interfere in the normal business of the city.

The London Legation.

Aziz Pasha Ezzet, who had been selected for appointment as first Egyptian Ambassador in London, has been requested by the Government to return from Europe, where he was spending the summer, to Egypt, and is now on his way. He is not in the best of health, and is reported to have written to the King, requesting to be allowed to decline the appointment, on account of his ill-health. Meanwhile, Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the well-known explorer, who recently returned from a journey across the Libyan Desert, from north to south, is stated to be a likely candidate for the position of First Secretary at the London Legation.



Constantinople, August 28.

Ratification and Evacuation.

The Treaty has been ratified by the National Assembly; the evacuation is in full swing. Last Thursday evening the Allied High Commissioners received through Adnan Bey from Ismet Pasha an official letter announcing the fact of the ratification, and on Friday three transports full of British troops had already left. During the week-end the pre-arranged plans of evacuation have been carried into execution, and at the moment of writing the British garrison has been practically reduced to the Guards Brigade and the Duke of Wellington's Regiment, which are remaining on until a late period in the agreed six weeks in order to give the Turkish authorities time to take over the control of the city and of the surrounding area. The Asiatic side has been virtually evacuated, and the British garrisons replaced by Turkish. Side by side with the evacuation of the Constantinople area, the movement of British troops from the Straits zone is also proceeding.

The attitude of the indigenous elements to the course of events varies with their racial feelings. The non-Moslem races have always been curiously incredulous on the subject of the possibility of evacuation. The wish to retain the protection of the Allied forces has been father to the thought; and now that they see their protectors relentlessly leaving the country for good and all, they are suffering from a mixture of panic and fatalism which is almost incomprehensible to the more energetic people from the North, who are apt to lose patience with their moans and wails and to reproach them for not taking definite steps to put themselves out of the reach of the Turks while they yet had the chance.

Turks and the Evacuation.

The elation of the Turks at the departure of the foreign troops is very comprehensible, but to those of us who remember how during the past five years the vast majority of Turks in Constantinople have in their heart of hearts approved of the well-meant measures for the improvement of public health, public order, and civil organisation, which have been carried into effect *tant bien que mal* by the Allied authorities, the vulgar abuse which the majority of the Turkish journalistic writers consider it their duty to employ in their effusions on the subject of the evacuation strikes us as peculiarly nasty lip-service to the potentates at Angora. An honourable exception to this offensive gutter-press tone is provided by the *Vatan*, which goes out of its way to speak in calm, gentlemanly tones concerning the dignified and friendly attitude of General Harington in the execution of his delicate duties, and it is for us to recognise the valuable broad-mindedness of Ahmed Emin Bey and his comprehension of a sense of duty which transgresses the narrow limits of post-War chauvinism and bitterness.

Ismet Pasha's Speech.

The next event of first-class importance during the week has been the speech of Ismet Pasha in the Assembly. It is no exaggeration to say that in content and tone this speech excels any other pronouncement of any Turkish statement since the War. Primarily designed as a dialectical defence of the Treaty against violent criticism on the part of a few members of the Assembly, it contains a reasoned *exposé* of the difficulties encountered by the Turkish delegation in their struggle against the serried forces of Europe, and a tacit recognition of the relative weakness of Turkey. You will search it in vain, however, for signs of the impotent wails of the weakling's rage, and it betrays a sound comprehension of the realities of Turkey's international situation. It provides an effective counterpoise to the somewhat bellicose tone of Mustapha Kemal's inaugural speech, to which reference was made last week. in that Ismet Pasha lays stress upon the fact

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that the new international situation of Turkey provides her with unrivalled opportunities for prudent peaceful development.

Internal Differences.

The overwhelming majority by which the Treaty was ratified emphasises the excellence of the party discipline, but, however great may be the unanimity on this cardinal point in foreign affairs, the course of internal affairs gives every one much food for thought. The divergence of views between the out-and-out Kemalists, the adherents of the C.U.P., and the old Conservatives on such questions as the separation of the Sultanate from the Khalifate, the situation of the capital, the policy to be pursued towards Russia, and the settlement of the financial situation of the ex-officials and reserve officers, shows no signs of being healed—*au contraire*. The almost open defection of Raouf Bey is regarded as extremely significant, the growing uneasiness of enlightened Turkish opinion in Constantinople as to the economic fate of the city, the disaffection of the demobilised officers' associations who are actively preaching opposition to Mustapha Kemal at numerous important centres in Anatolia, such as Smyrna, Konia, and Cæsarea, and the growing conviction, which is finding its way into print, that the real touchstone of the settlement of Turkey's future and the future of the present leaders is the debt settlement; all these questions of major importance are now being discussed by cooler heads in relation to their bearing on the prospects of the present Government and leaders.

The Economic Prospect.

The catastrophic economic situation and the progressive depreciation of Turkish money on the foreign exchange market are the object of discussions by a commission appointed by the Minister of Finance. The old parrot-cry of speculation on the Constantinople bourse has been bandied about in the Press like the bekdji's call of "fire," but the commission, to judge from inspired reports, has realised the deeper causes, although it has been unable to suggest any practical remedies which do not either bring in their train equally serious evils or involve the economic, and hence political, dependence of the country upon the foreigner, "which is absurd," as Euclid used to say. It was recognised that the sole means of putting the financial situation right is the development of exportation, which is going to be a long and tedious business.

Harvest reports from Anatolia are not wholly unfavourable, but they do not give any precise figures of the area under cultivation compared with that of pre-War years, and that is the important point. The cereal crops in the Konia, Afiun, and Angora districts are good, but in the region of Biledjik and Eskishehir they have seriously suffered from drought and the depredations of wild boars. The Konia region is expected to have 300 trucks available for Constantinople, whereas its pre-War export amounted on the average to twice as much. The tobacco crop in the Adebazar and Sabandja areas is reported to be excellent as regards quality and yield. The possibility of any cereal crop this year is said to be due to the prevision of the Government, which distributed generous quantities of seed grain accumulated in army depots at Konia and South-West Anatolia from last year's abundant crop, that could not be exported on account of the state of war. It is satisfactory to know that during the past ten months considerable progress has been made in the work of reconstructing and rendering habitable the devastated regions.

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IRAK.

Baghdad, August 22.

The Affair at Mosul.

Mosul was the scene of an incident of minor importance a few days ago, which was allowed to assume greater proportions than it deserved. A trivial dispute occurred in the bazaar between a Mohammedan private of the Irak Army and a private of the Assyrian levies, which ended in their coming to blows. Some of the onlookers joined in, and a regular rough-and-tumble fight with fists took place, and had no notice been taken of it there is ground for supposing that with the separation of the two sides the incident would have been closed. The Government, however, appears to have panicked; wild telegrams were sent to Baghdad, Indian troops and armoured cars were brought into the town, and there was every indication that the Government regarded the situation as serious. This gave the politicians of Mosul an opportunity which they have been waiting for for some time. They made it a political matter, and tried to organise the preparation of petitions for the removal of the Assyrian levies; though what would take their place on frontier defence it is not easy to see. There is not the slightest probability that the people of Mosul would enlist in the Irak Army so as to defend their frontier; they, and indeed all the Arabs, have hitherto shown a conspicuous unwillingness to enlist in their national army, and there is no reason to suppose that they would do so with any greater alacrity if there were no levies in the town.

New Legislation.

In spite of the nearness of the elections to the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers has been busy of late with new legislation, the most important of which are the Irak Passport Law and the Shara Courts Law. The Passport Law lays it down that any person desiring to leave Irak, whether by land or by sea, must be in possession of a permit to travel or a passport visé or endorsed by the Government of Irak. Pending the enactment of a law of nationality for the inhabitants of Irak an inhabitant of Irak who is not a foreign subject may obtain a permit to travel in lieu of a passport. Mohammedan pilgrims travelling in organised parties do not require permits to travel or passports, but the leader of the party should possess a pilgrim pass, in which the names of the persons for whom he is responsible are shown. Tribesmen in their customary areas or vocations entering or leaving Irak by land do not require permits to travel.

The Shara Courts Law is intended to regularise the procedure of the religious courts and at the same time to effect economies by avoiding duplication of staff. The law abolishes the post of Naib Jefariyah or judge of the Shiah Court, which hitherto has in many districts existed side by side with the regular Sunni Shara Courts. Instead, it is now laid down that a kadi may be either Sunni or Shiah, though in Basrah and Baghdad and such other bigger places which may be notified by royal

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iradahs, there may be both a Sunni and a Shiah kadi. Arrangements have been made, however, for safeguarding the rights of the two sects in cases where Sunni and Shiah religious law differ from one another. In suits which must be decided according to the Shiah rules, it is laid down that they shall, if brought before a Sunni kadi, be referred by him to a Shiah divine, who shall issue a fetva on the case, and the kadi must give his judgment according to the ruling of the fetva. The same procedure applies, *mutatis mutandis*, where cases which must be decided in the light of Sunni law are brought before a Shiah kadi. The law makes provision for a sufficient number of both Sunnis and Shiahs in the Court of Appeal. It would appear that the provisions of the law are unobjectionable and provide adequate safeguards for both Sunnis and Shiahs, but it is viewed with great suspicion by the Shiahs, who persist in regarding the Government as a Sunni institution, intent on opposing in any way it can the interests of the Shiahs.

Public Executions.

Less objectionable, however, from every point of view, is the order which lays down that henceforward executions shall take place in public. The order states that hanging a man inside the jail is not a sufficiently strong deterrent to crime, and it has, therefore, been decided that henceforward all persons condemned to death and whose sentences are confirmed by the King, will be hanged in public, and the bodies left exposed to public view for some time. This order is to be regretted, not merely as an act of wanton barbarity, but as being likely to render increasingly difficult the administration of justice. Hitherto, it has not been easy to get trustworthy evidence in murder cases, and if this decision is carried into effect it is likely to be almost impossible to obtain evidence in future. Indications are not wanting, however, that there is little intention of putting the order into force, as no sooner was it published than an Irak Government Gazette was published which contained royal iradahs commuting the death sentence passed on twelve persons convicted of various murders into penal servitude for life.

Cholera.

A serious outbreak of cholera of apparently a very virulent type has broken out at Abadan, and has extended to Basrah. At Abadan there have been over 650 deaths, and over 90 per cent. of the cases have proved fatal. In Basrah it has been less serious, deaths averaging 20 a day for the past week, but in Baghdad only three cases have come to light to date. All possible measures have been taken to prevent its spread, and the regulations governing travel from Basrah to Baghdad are very stringent, no third-class passengers being allowed to travel either by rail or by river. As a result the fast train service between Basrah and Baghdad has been suspended except the train on Fridays which connects with the mail steamer. During the last two days the number of cases has shown a welcome decrease, and it is hoped that the epidemic is now under control.

An aeroplane carrying Flying Officer Whitmore and Aircraftsman Taylor crashed at Peshawur on August 21. Both occupants were killed.

Their Highnesses the Maharaja and Maharanee Gaekwar of Baroda arrived in Paris on August 30 from St. Moritz, to attend the cremation of their son, Prince Jaisingh Rao, who died whilst travelling from Berlin to Flushing. The ceremony which took place in Paris on September 1 at Pére la Chaise was of the simplest character, and included certain Hindu rites, comprising recitations from the Hindu sacred book, the Bhagad Gita.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

A Reformed Calendar.

In a letter to *The Times* of August 27 a correspondent included the resolution in relation to the reform of the calendar which is soon to be considered by a Committee of the League of Nations, adopted by the Pan-Orthodox Council held last May in Constantinople. The document runs as follows:—

> Œcumenical Patriarchate, Office of the Pan-Orthodox Synod. Resolution adopted: His Holiness proposes the following resolution for the vote of the Synod:—
>
> (1) The removal of the difference between the ecclesiastical and civil calendar throughout the Churches of the Orthodox Powers is recognised as an inevitable necessity in view of prevailing custom.
>
> (2) It is confidently affirmed that from the point of view of canonical ordinances there is no obstacle to the rectification of the ecclesiastical calendar in use in accordance with the data of astronomical science.
>
> (3) The Julian calendar is rectified by the removal from it of thirteen days, which make up the error in calculation as to the scientific solar year from the time of the first Œcumenical Synod to the present day.
>
> (4) On account of the removal of the thirteen days it is determined that October 1, 1923, be counted as October 14, and that we keep the feasts of the omitted days all at once on October 14 and thereafter as the chief authority of the province may determine.
>
> (5) The ordinances of the sacred canons relating to the feast of Easter are observed without change, but the determining of the feast is hereafter to be on the basis of the data of astronomical science.
>
> (6) The fundamental principles of the canonical ordinances which are to be observed without breach are these:—(*a*) We keep the feast on the Lord's Day; (*b*) after the spring equinox; (*c*) after the first full moon. All these fundamental principles are reckoned according to the time of the Holy City, Jerusalem, and for greater accuracy according to the time of the meridian which passes through the Church of the Crucifixion on Golgotha.
>
> (7) It is referred to the observatories of the Orthodox Powers of Greece, Serbia, Roumania, and Russia that on the basis of the canonical data stated above they shall prepare a table of

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the feasts of Easter for the years 1924 to 2000, and communicate it to the Œcumenical Patriarchate by November 1, 1923, for communication to all Orthodox Churches.

(8) The present readjustment of the Julian calendar and of the ordinary Paschal system is not opposed to the design for the preparation of a universal calendar, which shall be more perfect, practically and scientifically. On the contrary, it is in the hope of discovering general agreement for a calendar more perfect both than the Gregorian and the Julian that it describes the present readjustment as opportune.

Italy and Greece.

The reception by the British Press of the news of the Italo-Greek dispute is varied, though most journals, while admitting the extreme provocation under which Italy is smarting, reproach Signor Mussolini for his swift measures. The *Daily News*, for example, asks for proof of official Greek complicity in the murders, and says :—

> To most people it will seem incredible that Athens would commit so monstrous a folly as to lend itself to a murderous attack on the members of an international commission. But, in any case, there should be no talk of war among serious statesmen; and Signor Mussolini's headlong and headstrong action is a deplorable misuse of his powers and responsibilities. After all, both Italy and Greece have signed the Covenant of the League of Nations; this manifestly is just the kind of ominous crisis which ought to be considered by the League with deliberate detachment and impartiality.

The *Morning Post*, on the other hand, while sympathising profoundly with the Italian people, suggests that the crime was committed by lawless bands, and that the Italian impulse should, therefore, be controlled by cool judgment. Its sympathy with Italy is so strong and unqualified that it has no doubt of the eventual outcome of the affair.

The Times warns Signor Mussolini that he is playing with fire: but thinks the problem may be solved either by the Conference of Ambassadors or by the League of Nations.

The *Manchester Guardian* thinks that nothing can avert a catastrophe unless the Governments and the Press of Europe keep a cool head. Italy, it affirms, is acting under the influence of a passion which destroys all sense of perspective, and she must, therefore, be made to realise that her case will be fairly treated by the League of Nations.

The *Daily Telegraph* states that the Powers must concentrate first of all on the prevention of war between Italy and Greece and its spreading to other Balkan States. The matter must be thrashed out by the League of Nations, and in the meantime no dramatic moves should take place. On the whole, it is hopeful of a solution—

> The worst thing that could happen would be that Greece should be encouraged from any quarter to hold out in stiff opposition to further concessions. She is in no position to fight. . . . Her true policy lies not in imploring the League of Nations to help her to resist Italy but in seeking, through the League, from Italy the most favourable terms. On the broader questions raised by the events of the last week it will be generally agreed that the position is very disconcerting for those who had hoped that international action of the thunderbolt kind was a thing of the past. Yet after all they had none too good warrant for confidence in view of the general course of European politics during the present year . . . . The saving fact of the present situation is that Signor Mussolini loses no opportunity to reiterate his declaration that what has taken place is not an act of war, and that Corfu is being occupied merely as a guarantee or pledge—to borrow a phrase from the Ruhr—that Greece shall make the full reparation required. In less dangerous circumstances, as we have said, such a phrase might be subjected to destructive criticism; in the present it is a saving formula, because it gives welcome assurance that Italy herself has no intention of enlarging the boundaries of this dangerous episode and risking the outbreak of another Balkan conflagration. We repeat that the consideration which should be supreme above everything else is the prevention of open war.

Articles to Note.

"The Medical School at Khartoum," by O. F. H. Atkey, and "The Future of Greece," by Philhellene, in the *Empire Review* (September).

"The New Turkey," by H. Charles Woods, in the *Fortnightly Review* (September).

"The Sikh Problem in the Punjab" (1920-1923), by Sir John Maynard; and "The Bulgarian Coup and Afterwards," by J. Walter Collins, in the *Contemporary Review* (September).

"The Grave Problem of India To-day," by Sir Patrick Fagan; and "The Indian Forests," by Sir Sainthill Eardley-Wilmot, in the *Nineteenth Century* (September).

FOOTBALL IN BULGARIA.

Our Sofia Correspondent writes :—

It is really remarkable how Bulgarians have taken to football. Before the War there were few football clubs in Bulgaria, and very little interest was taken in the game. To-day it is on the fair way of becoming a national pastime, and most towns and villages have their teams. The season is from April to September, and at present there is keen competition as to who will head the Sofia League.

But more interesting than this is the international character which the game is taking. This summer Roumanian and Czecho-Slovak teams have visited Sofia and played several matches against the leading clubs. There was little to choose between the Roumanian and Bulgarian teams, but the "Rousse," of Prague, were slightly stronger than the majority of the Sofia teams. The best match seen this year was that between "Rousse" and "Levsky," one of the strongest Bulgarian clubs. Some really good football was played in a game which was eventually won by "Levsky" by 2 goals to 1. The keenness shown for football is one of the encouraging signs about post-War Bulgaria.

Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, formerly Governor of Malta, will lay the foundation-stone of the Maltese pavilion at Wembley on September 8, the anniversary of the Turkish defeat in Malta in 1565 (the Maltese national festival).

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 6 (New Style).
August 24 (Old Style).
Moharrem 24, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Ellul 25, 5683 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir J. Roper Parkington is staying at Folkestone.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck continues to make good progress.

M. George V. Mélas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has left London for Paris on leave.

Prince Nicholas of Greece is the guest of Mr. Kenneth Foster, of Egton Lodge, near Whitby.

Lady Boyle, wife of Sir Edward Boyle, Bart., has given birth to a son at 63, Queen's Gate, S.W.

The Queen of Roumania arrived in Paris on August 30, and is staying at the Roumanian Legation.

Queen Olga of the Hellenes is remaining in London for the present, and has not yet made any definite plans for the autumn.

Viscount Chelmsford left London on August 30 for Scotland. Viscountess Chelmsford will return to-morrow from Budleigh Salterton, Devon.

Major the Hon. Guy and Mrs. Willoughby have arrived from India, and are staying with Lord and Lady Middleton at Birdsall House, Yorkshire.

Major-General Sir Charles Townshend was present at the London Club last Thursday evening, when the members gave an Oriental carnival in his honour.

Sir Harry Foster, who, for the past twenty-nine years has been Persian Consul-General in London, has resigned his position. No successor has yet been appointed.

Sir Herbert Dering, British Minister in Roumania, left London last Thursday for Bucharest. Lady Dering, who is at present at Harrogate, will not return to Roumania until later.

Mr. Oscar Browning received the decoration of the Order of the British Empire at the British Embassy in Rome on August 28, as he was not able to go to Buckingham Palace on July 25.

Princess Xenia and Princess Vera of Montenegro (sisters of the Queen of Italy), who are staying at Etretat, recently received Mr. Alex. Devine, Headmaster of Clayesmore School, near Winchester.

Lady Harington has arrived at York, where she will be shortly joined by Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington, who is returning from Constantinople to succeed Lieut.-General Sir Ivor Maxse in the Northern Command.

Mr. Neville Henderson, Acting High Commissioner in Turkey, has paid an official visit of courtesy to the Khalif to express the satisfaction of the British Government at the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne.

Mr. L. S. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, arrived on September 3 at Malta for an inspection of the dockyard. After a stay of three days, he is expected to proceed to Constantinople to inspect the fleet in Turkish waters.

OBITUARY.

The death is announced from Palestine of the Rev. Dr. D. W. Torrance, of the United Free Church of Scotland Medical Mission at Tiberias, after some weeks' illness. Dr. Torrance, who founded the Scottish Mission in Galilee forty years ago, was well known throughout the Near East, and patients often travelled over the desert for a whole month to receive his treatment.

Princess Christopher of Greece, who was formerly Mrs. W. B. Leeds, the widow of an American millionaire, died on August 29 at her London residence, Spencer House, St. James's Place. The Princess, who was married to the late King Constantine's brother in 1920, was accorded all the rights and privileges of a Greek princess. At the expressed wish of the late Princess, her funeral will take place in America. Her sister, Mrs. Green, arrived in London from the United States on September 1, with Mr. and Miss Green.

The body of Sir Henry Hubert Hayden, F.R.S., a distinguished scientific man, who held the post of Director of the Geological Survey in India, and was 54 years of age, and who had been missing, with his two Alpine guides, since August 12, was found on August 29 on the Finsteraarhorn, and brought down to Lauterbrunnen. The bodies of the two guides were found also.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1923.

THE CURSE OF THE BALKANS.

By the bombardment and occupation of Corfu Italy has put herself entirely in the wrong in her quarrel with Greece, for in none of the precedents that she has quoted can justification be found for the unseemly haste with which she acted, without ensuring the safety of the civilian population of the town. The terms of her ultimatum showed a lack of the sense of proportion and were, therefore, not worthy of a first-class Power. Europe is not where it was in 1914, when Austria-Hungary, with the deliberate intention of provoking a war, could send a similar ultimatum to Serbia. The world has moved a long way since then, although the fact would seem to have been lost upon the Italian Government. The crime for which Greece has to be held responsible is admittedly as black as the Italians paint it, and on this point the whole civilised world agrees with them, but their method of calling for redress was not that of a people who claim to take a leading part in Europe. Firmness is not synonymous with bullying, and loses rather than gains from an exhibition of irresponsible excitability. The bombardment of the undefended town of Corfu, it is charitable to suppose, can hardly have been in the mind of the Italian Government when it proposed the landing of a contingent of troops as a temporary measure to show Italy's intention to enforce the reparations due to her; but absence of self-control in Rome reacts on the Italian Navy, and the guns go off at Corfu for no reason, presumably, other than panic on board or a desire for "frightfulness." An act that might be expected from a Central American State is hard to exonerate when it is committed by a so-called Great Power, and it will generally be conceded that Italian prestige, which had been largely re-established by Signor Mussolini's Government, has suffered a more serious blow than would be entailed by defeat on the field of battle.

There were the strongest possible reasons why the Italian Government should proceed with dignity and deliberation to exact redress for the murder of the Military Mission engaged in the delimitation of the Græco-Albanian frontier, apart from the fact that her overwhelming strength as compared with that of Greece left no occasion for haste. The murder was committed well within Greek territory; but conditions in the Balkan frontier districts are such that there must always be an element of doubt as to the nationality of any band until conclusive evidence is forthcoming. Although relations between the Albanians and Italians have improved of late, it could not be regarded as altogether out of the question that certain Albanian outlaws should wish to pay off old scores against Italy. On the other hand there is plenty of bad blood between Greeks and Italians, and for this reason alone it would have been expected that the Italian Government would act circumspectly in affixing responsibility for the murder. As things are, it has exposed itself to the charge of being as lacking in a sense of responsibility as the murderers of General Tellini, with the result that, even if the Greek nationality of the assassins is accepted, the feeling will remain that Italy has been concerned merely to settle her old account with Greece rather than, in virtue of her position as a first-class Power, to use the opportunity for remedying an intolerable state of affairs in Europe, of which the murder of her mission was the result.

No blunders on Italy's part, however, can diminish the gravity of the crime for which Greece has to bear the responsibility. The Greeks have tolerated a system common to all the Balkan States, and in this respect may not be sinners above their neighbours. Lawlessness on the frontiers has always been connived at, even where it has not been actually encouraged as a factor in national propaganda. Among States of approximately equal military strength *Komitaji* bands serve their purpose, and it is only when they belong to a country much weaker than its neighbours that their activities are apt to become an embarrassment, as Bulgaria has found to her cost. In Epirus the Greek bands would be regarded as patriots, and if they had confined their attention entirely to Albanians, Europe would probably have continued to turn a blind eye towards them. It so happens, however, that they have murdered an Italian General and four other Italians, and not only Greece, it is to be hoped, but also every other Balkan State (for there are *Komitajis* on nearly every frontier) will now realise that it does not pay to tolerate a system entirely at variance with civilised government. Italy, unfortunately, has shown such a poor appreciation of her responsibilities as a Great Power in that she has tried to treat the outrage as a matter concerning only Greece and herself. It concerns Europe as a whole, however, very much, and, apart from the personal redress due to Italy, the supreme authority in Europe, now the League of Nations, ought to seize the opportunity of dealing once for all with the *Komitaji* curse in the Balkans. The Italian Government, it will be noticed, was more anxious to pile spectacular humiliation upon Greece than to use the tragedy for the betterment of the backward Balkan States. The League of Nations can step in where Italy has failed it, and if it saves Greece from Italian fury, the price of its services ought to be the complete elimination of all *Komitajis* in Greece. When the Greek bands have disappeared it will be possible to take up the question with the Yugoslav, Bulgarian and Albanian Governments. In Macedonia the existence of bands is largely due to political injustice, and if the Græco-Italian conflict has brought home to the League the constant danger that these bands are to the peace of Europe it may appreciate for the first time the necessity of settling the Macedonian question instead of allowing it to simmer, with occasional eruptions which sooner or later may embroil a much wider area.

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IRAK AND NEJD.

[On September 1 H.M. Stationery Office published Sir Percy Cox's Report on Irak Administration, covering the period October, 1920, to March, 1922. Not the least interesting part of the Report is that dealing with Irak's foreign relations, and we reproduce here Sir Percy's account of Irak's relations with Nejd.—Ed.]

NAJD.*

Extension of Ibn Sa'ud's Authority.

The predominant facts in the politics of Arabia during the past 18 months have been the capture of Hail by Ibn Sa'ud and his subsequent efforts to push his tribal influence in the northern part of the peninsula up to the borders of 'Iraq and the necessity thereby involved of a definite delimitation of frontiers both in the case of the 'Iraq and also in that of Kuwait.

Troubles between Ibn Sa'ud and Kuwait.

As regards Kuwait, a treaty concluded between Ibn Sa'ud and His Majesty's Government in December, 1915, and ratified in the following July, contained the following clauses :—

1. His Majesty's Government do acknowledge and admit that Najd, Al Hasa, Qatif and Jubail and their dependencies and territories, which will be discussed and determined hereafter, are the countries of Ibn Sa'ud.
2. Ibn Sa'ud undertakes to refrain from aggression on or interference with the territories of Kuwait, Bahrain, etc., and the limits of their territories shall be afterwards determined.

The delimitation of boundaries was thus expressly left in abeyance, but in the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1913 the area under the direct control of the Shaikh of Kuwait had been defined on the map by a red circle with a radius of some 70 miles from Kuwait on all sides, while a farther area, from Umm Qasr to Al Ratk, thence down the Batin to Hafar and eastward to the Persian Gulf which it reached at Jabal Manifah, some 200 miles south of Kuwait, was recognised as being within his sphere of influence.

In 1919 the respective claims of the Shaikh of Kuwait and Ibn Sa'ud over this outer zone gave rise to a dispute which resulted, in September, in an unsuccessful attack on Jahrah, a village which lies about 30 miles west of Kuwait, on the part of the Akhwan leader, Faisal al Duwish. I met Ibn Sa'ud at Ojair at the end of September, on my way to Basrah, and resumed the cordial relations which I have ever enjoyed with him, but a suggested conference at Kuwait did not materialise. At the end of December Ibn Duwish raided a section of the Shammar camped in the desert borders of the 'Iraq, in retaliation for the undoubtedly provocative attitude of which they had been guilty. Some of the Dhafir, a tribe subject to the 'Iraq administration, were camped with the Shammar and shared in their losses, while during January not only the Dhafir but also the Samawah confederation of the Huchaim suffered from Akhwan raids.

Early in February, 1920, Ibn Sa'ud sent his relative, 'Abdullah ibn Thunaiyan, on deputation to Baghdad. He was accompanied by a native of Mosul, Dr. 'Abdullah, who had been for some years a resident at Riyadh. Ibn Thunaiyan stayed in Baghdad till May, while Dr. 'Abdullah returned to Riyadh in the following November. Both were helpful in dealing with current questions with Najd. As regards the dispute touching the boundary of Kuwait, the Shaikh of Muhammerah, as a friend of both parties, arranged that his son, together with Shaikh Salim's nephew, Ahmad al Jabir, should visit Ibn Sa'ud at his capital with a view to adjusting differences. On February 27th, while the party were at Riyadh, the death of Shaikh Salim removed the chief obstacle to agreement. When Shaikh Ahmad returned to Kuwait on March 24th he was nominated by the notables of the town successor to Shaikh Salim, since when, although the final settlement of the Kuwait frontier has not yet been effected, no further hostilities have occurred.

Subjugation of Jabal Shammar.

For the next eight months Ibn Sa'ud was occupied in pursuing his long-cherished ambition to subdue Hail and the Shammar of Ibn Rashid. By April he had defeated 'Abdullah ibn Mit'ab, the ruling Amir of Jabal Shammar, in a series of engagements, and had begun the blockade of Hail. The immediate results in the 'Iraq of this campaign were twofold. It produced a state of continuous lawlessness on the southern frontiers; the Dhafir and some of the local tribes, profiting by the general unrest, engaged in raids and forays, sometimes on the Akhwan, sometimes on each other, on the tribes of Kuwait, while the Akhwan retaliated on their side. Secondly, it started a migration to the 'Iraq of Shammar tribes fleeing from the forces of Ibn Sa'ud. They passed up through the 'Amarat 'Anizah, the tribesmen of Fahad Beg ibn Hadhdhal, and a portion of them crossed the Euphrates at Ramadi into the Jazirah, after paying kodah, a tax on domestic animals, to the 'Iraq administration. The rest remained in the pasturages of the 'Amarat.

The Refugee Shammar.

Fahad Beg had obtained an assurance from Ibn Sa'ud that he and tribes camping with him should be immune from attack on the part of the Akhwan, but the fact that the Shammar of Najd, whom Ibn Sa'ud regarded as rebellious subjects, had taken refuge with the 'Anizah, was naturally galling to the Imam, and in the end of April he wrote a sharp letter to Ibn Hadhdhal, reminding him of the ties of kinship—Ibn Sa'ud is himself of 'Anizah descent—claiming authority over all 'Anizah, and, while recognising their close relations with his friend the British Government in 'Iraq, declaring that he would not agree to their being ruled by any Arab except himself. At the same time he wrote to inform me that an assembly of the leading men of Najd had invited him to assume the title of Sultan, which he had accordingly done, and asked for recognition by His Majesty's Government. This was officially accorded to him on August 22.

Ibn Sa'ud's letter crossed one from myself acquainting him with the fact that His Majesty's Government were disposed to admit and support the candidature of the Amir Faisal to the throne of 'Iraq. Ibn Sa'ud had recently given another proof of his loyal friendship with the British Government by persuading his subjects, at the risk of grave dissatisfaction on their part, to refrain for the third year from performing the pilgrimage so as to avoid possible friction with the Hijaz, and his reply to my letter, far from intimating opposition to the presence of the Amir Faisal in the 'Iraq, breathed his willingness to accept the decision of His Majesty's Government, coupled with the prayer that his own interests might be equally respected. The Amir Faisal, while on his way up the Gulf, had himself written to Ibn Sa'ud, and he received from him a reply couched in amicable terms.

The refugee Shammar were, however, a difficult problem, and, as Fahad Beg rightly pointed out, their presence among his own tribe was likely to

* The official spelling is everywhere retained.—[ED.]

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prove a danger to the latter. The Shammar used the asylum thus afforded them as a safe vantage ground from which to raid the Akhwan, and it was clear that the 'Anizah might well be involved in the counter-raids of the Akhwan. All Shammar were accordingly ordered to cross the Euphrates into the Hillah Division, where their movements could more easily be controlled.

Fall of Hail.

Meantime the Amir 'Abdullah ibn Rashid had made submission to Ibn Sa'ud, but his cousin, Muhammad ibn Tallal, held out in Hail, and sent messages to me begging me to intervene between himself and Ibn Sa'ud. The latter, however, refused all offers of mediation, and early in November the prolonged struggle terminated in the submission of Hail to the Sultan of Najd. The victor exhibited a clemency as generous as it was statesmanlike. He took immediate steps to relieve the population of the town, which had been reduced to great straits during the siege, and appointed Ibrahim al Subhan, the head of a house which had served as Wazirs of the Al Rashid and was closely related to them by marriage, as Governor of Hail, placing a small garrison of his own followers in the citadel. He and his son contracted matrimonial alliances with the Rashid and Subhan, and the Rashid family were removed to Riyadh, where they were treated with all honour.

Correspondence between the 'Iraq and Najd.

I instructed the Political Agent at Kuwait to convey my congratulations to the Sultan, together with my appreciation of his conduct, and at the same time I pressed upon him the importance of an early meeting between himself and King Faisal, under my auspices, to establish a clear understanding as to the frontiers of the two Arab States and the treatment of tribal affairs. Ibn Sa'ud replied with the suggestion that a preliminary agreement on the principles of the proposed treaty was desirable, before the actual meeting of himself and King Faisal took place. To this, in accord with His Majesty, I agreed, but in intimating concurrence it seemed necessary, in view of the extravagant claims which Ibn Sa'ud was known to be contemplating, to lay down the *prima facie* basis on which, in my opinion, negotiations should be conducted, namely, that the tribes of Muntafiq, 'Anizah, and Dhafir must be accepted as appertaining to the 'Iraq, and that the line of the frontier would be determined in accordance with predominant and prescriptive rights to watering-places.

As regards the 'Anizah, the attitude of the 'Amarat, under Fahad Beg ibn Hadhdhal, is one of unqualified determination to remain, as 'Iraq tribesmen, under the direct protection of the British Government. On the Syrian side of the desert it would appear that the Ruwallah section of the 'Anizah are prepared to accept Ibn Sa'ud's suzerainty.

Akhwan Propaganda and Attack.

There had been for some time past friction between the 'Iraq Government and the Shaikh of the Dhafir, Humud ibn Suwait. Owing to his failure to control his tribe from raiding, his subsidy had been intermitted, while there was a large claim against him on the part of a group of Mosul merchants who had been robbed by his tribesmen in the previous spring. It was unfortunate at this juncture that King Faisal sanctioned in January the appointment of Yusuf Beg al Sa'dun as head of a Camel Corps which was intended to guard the southern frontiers of 'Iraq. Between Yusuf Beg and Ibn Suwait there was long-standing enmity, and the latter was likely to regard the appointment of his rival to control the southern marches as a direct blow aimed at himself. He did, in fact, repair at once to Riyadh, and though I requested Ibn Sa'ud not to receive him, on the ground that he was in trouble with the 'Iraq administration, my letter did not reach Riyadh until after his visit. He returned with presents from the Sultan of Najd, and was accompanied by an Akhwan representative, Ibn Ma'ammar, despatched for the purpose of collecting tribute from the Dhafir as well as from 'Iraq shepherds pasturing their flocks in the desert.

Meantime, the arrival of a large body of Akhwan at Hafar early in February had alarmed the 'Iraq tribes, who withdrew to the neighbourhood of the railway, fearing reprisals for raids on the Akhwan, for which the Dhafir had been responsible during the winter. A few days later a section of the refugee Shammar, who were on their way to make submission to Ibn Sa'ud, were attacked near Shabikah, south of Najaf, by a Shammar Shaikh who had accepted the Akhwan creed. This episode, together with constant rumours that the Akhwan intended to move against the 'Amarat, increased the apprehension of the 'Iraq tribes. In the middle of February Yusuf Beg and the Camel Corps moved out towards Abul Ghar, south of Suq al Shuyukh, where the Mutasarrif paid him a visit and exhorted the tribes not to pay tribute to Ibn Sa'ud. His action probably precipitated the issue. On March 11 the Akhwan leader, Faisal al Duwish, no doubt in collusion with Ibn Suwait, looted Abul Ghar, and, not finding the Camel Corps there, followed them to Shaqrah, some thirty miles south of the Basrah Nasiriyah Railway, and delivered an unprovoked attack on Yusuf Beg's men and the Muntafiq shepherds, who were camped in the vicinity.

Continued on page 255.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

Italy and Greece.

Any fears of yet another war in the Near East that may have arisen at first as a result of Italy's forceful measures in exacting reparation from Greece have quickly been dissipated. In the first place it takes two to make a war, and Greece is not in a position to stand up to the Italians; secondly, Italy has received too many indications of the bad impression created by her hasty action to make her anxious to proceed to further extremes. It is to be hoped, therefore, that Greece will lose no time in fulfilling the Italian terms with what grace she can. Any attempt to haggle will only increase the temptation in Italy to make the occupation of Corfu permanent. Let Greece concede every other point, and make an offer of £100,000 in the place of the £500,000 demanded.

Turkish Currency.

It is satisfactory to learn that one of the first steps taken by the Turkish Government after the ratification of the Lausanne Treaty is to devote attention to the question of exchange. In this matter Turkey at present, with exchange at about eight Turkish pounds to the English pound, compares favourably with her Balkan neighbours, whose exchanges range from ten to nearly fifty times the parity rate: but the Turkish pound has depreciated somewhat rapidly since the terms of the Lausanne Treaty were fixed, and there is precedent enough to show how difficult it is to stop the downward movement when it has gained any serious momentum. The full effect, moreover, on Turkey's exchange of the withdrawal of the Allied troops from Constantinople has yet to be recorded. In the circumstances the subject is one that brooks of no delay. One proposal attributed to the Angora Government is to redeem annually two million Turkish pounds in paper money, which will gradually be withdrawn from circulation, and to set aside in the Budget a credit of twenty-five million Turkish pounds for debt service and redemption. This scheme, if carried into effect, will be a move in the right direction. At the same time Turkey should define her attitude towards her external debt, and take the opportunity of removing the bad impression caused by her struggle for better terms at Lausanne. There can be little doubt that she will find bondholders ready to meet her halfway, because all countries have an interest in preventing any further spread of depreciated currencies.

The Imperial Bank of India.

The half-yearly results of the Imperial Bank of India for the first six months of the current year provide very satisfactory reading. Net earnings for the period in question amounted to Rs.76,01,175, as compared with Rs. 63,52,241 in the corresponding half of 1922 and Rs. 62,27,800 for the six months ending December, 1922. The dividend is maintained at the previous rate of 16 per cent., free of income tax, and Rs. 12,50,000, as against ten lakhs previously, are added to the reserve fund. Deposits increased from Rs. 63,36,20,604 a year ago to Rs. 70,47,71,973. The Bank stands pledged to open a hundred new branches within five years from January, 1921; of this number, 29 were opened during the halfyear, bringing the total opened to date up to 59.

The Irak Mail Route.

A telegram from Baghdad states that the first dispatch of mail matter by the new motor service between Irak and Palestine left Baghdad last Thursday. I shall be surprised to hear that this marks the inauguration of a regular weekly service, as I was under the impression that the Nairn Transport Company, who have the mail contract, proposed to start on October 1, when their fleet of new cars specially bought for the service would have reached Palestine. Possibly the reference is to a trial trip undertaken to celebrate the formal signing of the contract last week in Baghdad. Mails by this route will be subject to a surcharge of threepence instead of the sixpence charged for the air mail between Cairo and Baghdad. When the Haifa-Baghdad motor service is in regular running order the mails by that route should not take much, if any, longer than the air mail, which is more liable to delay from weather conditions. It is not intended, however, that there should be competition between the two routes. There are good reasons why the Royal Air Force should wish to keep up the fortnightly connection between Cairo and Baghdad; but it may be supposed that it does not set much store on acting as mail carriers. The motor car service via Damascus represents a bold, but I think sound, experiment, and there will be a natural tendency on the part of the Air Force, and, no doubt, of the British Post Office, to stand by to see how the scheme works. When it is fully established the saving of threepence on each letter will quickly deflect the mails to that route. The Irak Post Office is to be congratulated on its enterprise, for the substitution of a weekly postal service over the fortnightly means much to the business world, to say nothing of the saving of time to those who have to travel to and from Irak.

COMMENTATOR.

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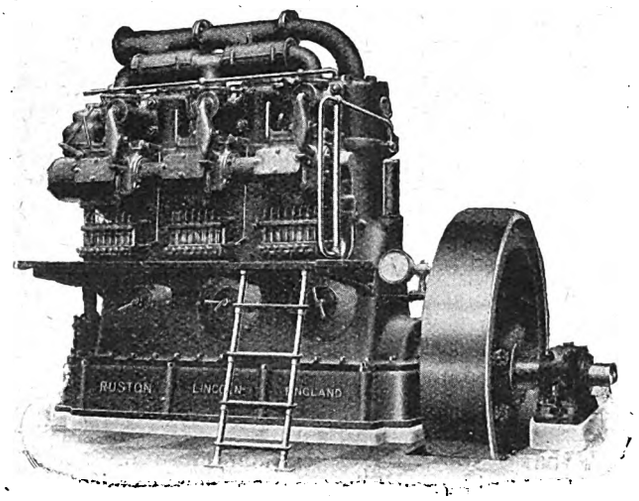
THE SHIPPING EXHIBITION.

Some Notable Exhibits.

(*By Our Engineering Representative.*)

The Shipping Engineering and Machinery Exhibition, which opened at Olympia on August 31, and may be said to inaugurate the exhibition season, is in every way a remarkable show. As its name indicates, the exhibition is a comprehensive one, and the range of the exhibits is very striking. Besides motor-boats, internal combustion engines, cranes, elevators, and a whole host of machinery of various kinds there are lamps, indicators, electric irons, and measuring apparatus, to mention only a few of the objects on view. Briefly, it is a very representative exhibition of British potentialities in engineering and machinery generally, but though it is so one could not help noticing the absence of a number of the leading firms without whose participation no exhibition of this kind could be considered complete.

There is more room at Olympia this year, and it greatly adds to the effectiveness of the exhibition, for while there is accommodation to spare the general effect is one of spaciousness, which adds

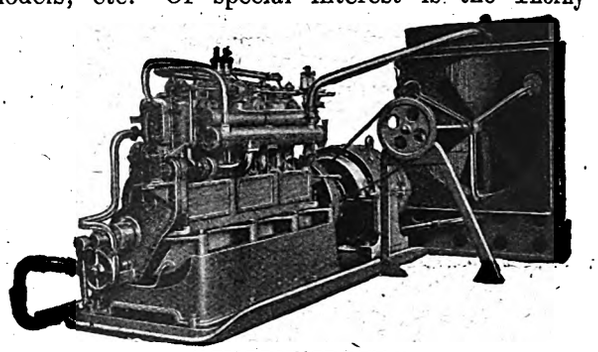


"RUSTON."
165 B.H.P. Vertical Oil Engine.

greatly to the attractiveness of the exhibits. It has been the drawback of so many recent exhibitions that the stands have been so packed together that it was difficult to see the exhibits for the people. At Olympia it is quite otherwise, which is fortunate in view of the crowds that may be expected owing to the exhibition having a decidedly popular side. It is possible, for instance, to see many varieties of machinery in motion, while the marine section is a perfect feast for the eye. Motor-boats of various kinds are exhibited by a large number of firms, and a morning could easily be spent over these vessels alone. They are small craft, but one of them so little merits that description that it is obvious that it must have been a matter of supreme difficulty to bring it to Olympia. Among these vessels is one which is likely to take more than its share of attention—a strange object somewhat resembling a submarine which has been built specially for speed, and can cover space at a prodigious rate. Looking at it one could not help thinking of Jules Verne. And there are other things in the exhibition only scarcely less interesting. It will be small wonder, therefore, if the younger generation, at any rate, finds the exhibition at least as attractive as any of the many other interests that London has to offer, and certainly youth seemed to predominate on the opening day. But it is, of course, the business visitor who matters, and it is satisfactory to know that the indications point to the presence of a large number of official and other representatives. Thus there is reason to anticipate that the result will be to give an impetus to British trade.

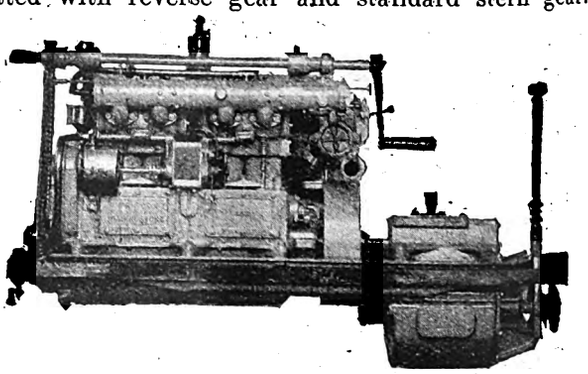
In the case of an exhibition of this size it is, of course, impossible to deal in detail with more than a few exhibits if justice is to be done to any, and I propose, therefore, to touch on some half a dozen of the leading stands, briefly indicating a few of the others that are worth special note.

To my mind there is no question that the most interesting stand in the exhibition is that of Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Co., Limited, who have a most attractive display of motor-boats, marine and stationary engines, oil fuel gear, ships' models, etc. Of special interest is the Thorny-



"THORNYCROFT."
C/6 Stationary Engine with Radiator and Fan. 75/100 b.h.p. Paraffin or Petrol.

croft 35 ft. sailing motor-yacht of 9 tons T.M., with hull of mahogany and equipped with a Thornycroft DB/2 type 9 B.H.P. engine. This boat is of similar, but larger, design to the 7-ton Gamecock exhibited at the Motor-Boat Show in 1921, and has been designed for single-handed running, either under power or sail, and has comfortable accommodation for lengthy sea cruising. Other craft shown include a Thornycroft 30 ft. open river launch, representative of many similar boats supplied for service at home and overseas. The marine and stationary engines shown by this firm include the DB/2 7.1/2/9 B.H.P. engines fitted with combined reducing reversing gear, suitable for cabin cruisers, harbour launches, ships' boats, fishing-boats, commercial craft, and auxiliary work generally, and an AB/4 paraffin engine, having four cylinders developing 26/30 B.H.P. fitted with reverse gear and standard stern gear.



"THORNYCROFT."
M/4 Marine Motor with Reducing Reversing Gear. 30/36 b.h.p. Paraffin or Petrol.

This type is particularly suitable for high-speed work generally. The M/4 4-cylinder 30/36 B.H.P. engine is also being shown, one set being fitted with reverse gear and standard stern gear and the other with reducing reversing gear and standard stern gear. For all types of commercial work and cruisers of average tonnage, auxiliary purposes, etc., this engine is suitable. Thornycroft oil fuel burning gear is shown for use on marine or stationary boilers, and examples of Thornycroft propeller work are available, also a comprehensive selection of models and photographs of steam and motor craft built by the firm.

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Messrs. Ruston and Hornsby, Limited, show their three-cylinder vertical cold starting oil engine, which will run on the cheapest fuel oils obtainable, either crude, residual, or tar oils. The fuel consumption of this engine under working conditions does not exceed .43 lb. The system adopted renders the starting absolutely reliable even in cold weather, while the design of the engine makes for simplicity of working, and the engine can be easily handled by a man of intelligence.

Messrs. Tayler and Bates, Limited, have a very interesting stand showing a 35 ft. cruiser and a 22 ft. river launch. Messrs. J. W. Brooke and Co., Limited, show a complete range of standard type Brooke marine motors and sets, while the British Petroleum Company, Limited, include among their exhibits models of a tank steamer, a derrick, and a railway tank car, and, of course, details of the various well-known products of the company.

Messrs. the Parsons Marine Turbine Co., Ltd., show a working model of their double-reduction geared turbines, comprising a high and low pressure turbine working in association with double-reduction gearing. They also exhibit a model of an arrangement of geared turbines suitable for a single-screw merchant vessel, and a model of a twin-screw arrangement of geared turbines suitable for a passenger steamer, etc. Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox, Ltd., have a comprehensive exhibit, including a mechanical chain grate stoker of the compartment type, showing the latest developments in these automatic stokers, permitting of the perfect regulation of the air supply to any portion of the grate. The firm are also showing their marine type boiler, which may be arranged for either coal or oil firing; their standard land type water-tube steam boiler, fitted with superheater and chain grate stoker; and samples of their oil-burners, in which steam or air is used as a spraying or atomising agent or in which the oil is atomised mechanically by pressure.

Messrs. the Automatic and Electric Furnaces, Limited, are showing the Wild-Barfield furnace for hardening high-speed steel, which consists of a horizontal heating chamber 9 in. by 5 in. by 3 in. Two bars of recrystallised carborundum are inserted in the roof, and are heated by an electric current from the lighting or heating mains. Their exhibits also include internally heated electric furnaces, and four Wild-Barfield automatic hardening furnaces. Another interesting stand is that of Messrs. Venesta, Limited, who show an exhibit of reinforced plywood under the name of Plymex. Messrs. the Aerograph Co., Limited, show the Aerograph system of using compressed air for the application of paints and varnishes, etc. Another notable stand is that of Messrs. Lacy-Hulbert and Co., Limited, where are to be seen a number of examples of air compressors, vacuum pumps, pneumatic machinery, and appliances. Messrs. W. H. Dorman and Co., Limited, show a single-drill wave power generator, direct coupled to an electric motor, a three-drill wave power generator, driven by a Dorman engine, a self-propelled three-drill wave power plant, and a cradle-mounted rock drill on a tripod. Filters of several kinds are shown by Messrs. the Stream Line Filter, whose exhibits include a large filter capable of dealing with many tons of water per hour. Messrs. Drummond Bros., Limited, show a series of machines and engines named "The Willing Worker," among them a 3 b.h.p. paraffin engine which is entirely self-contained, is hopper cooled, and requires no sub-base, and will start from cold on a small amount of petrol; a concrete mixer which has a capacity of from three to eight cubic yards per hour; and a house lighting set which is suitable for lighting the ordinary country house.

(To be concluded.)

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Deputy-Chairmen: SIR MONTAGU TURNER, R. HUGH TENNANT
Chief General Manager: JOHN RAE

Authorized Capital - £33,000,000
Paid-up Capital - - £9,003,718
Reserve - - - - £9,003,718

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Slightly Easier.

The Commercial Company of Egypt, in their report for the week ending August 24, state:—

Since our last report the Futures market has been slightly easier, although a fair amount of business has been put through. The demand from abroad has improved somewhat, and the orders received from spinners have been more numerous than for a long time past. A point worth mentioning is that the orders have been mostly for prompt shipment, which tends to show that spinners are not too well supplied with cotton. The Government purchases have been small, 150 to 200 bales Sakellarides daily, for which they have paid $1 below November for fully good fair and $1.4 below November for fully good fair to good. The difference between November Sakellarides and October Ashmouni has ranged between $4½ and $5, and the tendency is for the difference to narrow. Stocks, both here and in Liverpool, have now touched the lowest figures of the season; but, as the present demand is mostly for prompt shipment, whilst new crop cotton will not be coming down in any quantity for another month, a further reduction in stock figures is probable. This week's receipts amount to 6,718 krs., and the total since September 1 now stands at 6,643,914 krs. Exports have this week amounted to 55,901 krs., and the stock now stands at 854,736 krs., against 903,919 krs. a week ago, and 1,464,301 krs. a year ago.

Spot.—We have had considerably improved markets at Minet-el-Bassal this week, and spinners have shown more interest than for some time past. Sales amount to about 6,100 bales, of which we estimate 4,500 bales Sakel and 1,600 bales Uppers. In this total are included 700 bales Sakel fully good fair strict and fully good fair to good bought by the Government.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the bulk of the business has been in the medium and good grades. Prices of spot against contracts are quite firm at last week's rates. Fair and fully fair, being scarce, are rather dearer.

Uppers.—Business has been done in all styles, but the bulk has been in high grades. Spot prices are steady at about last week's rates for grades from fair to fully good fair, none of which are in good supply; but for cotton above fully good fair rates are considerably easier, owing to new crop cotton being now on the market.

Brown and White.—Remain neglected. Spot prices of brown are quoted a little easier, whilst for white they are very firm.

Crop 1923.—Crop news from Upper Egypt is rather good. Cotton is now arriving from there regularly, but, naturally, in small quantities.

It is reported from Lower Egypt that the pink boll worm is on the increase; but it is, as yet, difficult to say whether the damage caused is heavier than last year.

The Marking of Cotton Textiles.

As regards the false folding and marking of cotton textiles, H.M. Commercial Agent in Egypt has now confirmed his telegraphed communication to the Department of Overseas Trade in the following manner:—

"The Commercial Agent states that he has been furnished by the Egyptian Customs Administration with the following particulars, explaining the manner in which they are administering the decree of June 15, 1922, which deals with this matter.

"No substantial amendments have been made in the text of the Decree, but the following rules are being applied provisionally:—

"(1)In general, the length and unit of measurement must be stamped on the material, according to the law, but coloured goods may exceptionally be accepted if the required information is written on a paper label or on the packing.

"(2) Goods bearing a number only, without indication as to whether it refers to yards or metres, shall be dealt with as follows:—

"(a) If the result of verification shows the folds to be in metres, the goods may be imported as they are.

"(b) If the verification shows the folds to be in yards, the word 'Yards' must be added on every piece."

The Commercial Agent further states that the President of the British Chamber of Commerce in Egypt has had conversation with the Egyptian Customs Administration in regard to the execution of the Decree in question.

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Surplus - - - ,, 32,515,000

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Beograd, Bled, Cavtat, Celje, Dubrovnik, Ercegnovi, Jelsa, Jesenice, Korcula, Kotor, Kranj, Ljubljana, Maribor, Metkovic, Prevalje, Sarajevo, Split, Sibenik and Zagreb.

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BANCA ADRIATICA: Abbazia, Trieste and Zara.
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Industrial enterprises in Jugoslavia financed and established.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Inquiry on Satisfactory Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended August 29:—

The inquiry throughout the week has been on quite a satisfactory scale, and the resultant business shows an increase over last week. A further slight hardening in basis has taken place, and quotations for all growths and grades (with the exception of extra fine Sakel, which is reduced 25 points) have been advanced 10 points. A more confident feeling appears to prevail in trade circles, and spinners have shown more inclination to purchase further ahead. The main business continues to run on the medium Sakel qualities, and these, with a sprinkling of transactions in uppers, form the greater portion of the offtake.

Occasional inquiries for the higher grades of Sakel have come in, but only small parcels have changed hands; holders are ready to meet the market when tested. The demand for the Sudan varieties is well maintained, and about 650 bales have been sold at prices ranging from 15.00 to 17⅛. Reports from Alexandria on early arrivals of new crop uppers give a favourable opinion, and we are informed that a large yield of high-grade cotton is confidently expected. The estimated sales for the week amount to 3,400 bales, against 2,500 in our last report. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 16.55d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

A Slight Improvement.

The Manchester cotton trade review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 1 states:—

Although the market remains in a state of depression there has been a little more interest shown during the past week. Enquiries from abroad have been numerous, and whilst, as usual, a proportion of these have been quite impracticable, it is probably safe to say that rather more have resulted in actual business than in recent weeks.

The report of the American Agricultural Bureau on the growing cotton crop published last evening, showing a condition of only 54.1, is a great disappointment. If these figures are reliable the crop now cannot under the best circumstances be much more than 11,000,000 bales, and this would not be sufficient to supply the world's spinners on a full-time basis. The predicament of the trade is, therefore, a most awkward one; it is suffering from lack of orders owing to higher prices, yet, if the orders come in the desired quantity there would probably not be enough cotton to fulfil them.

Yarn.—A slightly better tone has been noticeable, but quotations remain very irregular and susceptible to considerable reductions when actual business is in question.

Cloth.—For certain classes of fancy goods a modest business has been done, but for standard lines demand remains exceedingly unsatisfactory. There has been a considerable volume of enquiry, leading many people to believe that on a lower range of values, provided that they were kept fairly steady, quite a good business could be done. In view of the bureau report above referred to, however, it is difficult to see how any reduction can be anticipated in the raw material except one of a very temporary nature.

No individual market calls for special mention.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have kept very steady during the week, and the effect of the bureau report issued last evening has not yet had time to show itself. A rise in the early days of next week seems very probable. Closing prices are as follows: American fully middling, 15.18; Egyptian fully good fair, 16.75.

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OIL NOTES.

According to a Reuter message the Chester oil concessions in Turkey have been taken over, as a result of arbitration, by the Ottoman-American Development Company, which is credited with being largely controlled by Canadian interests. Admiral Chester and his associates are to receive £60,000 in cash, which is to be supplied by Canadians, and to retain ten per cent. interest in future profits. Colonel Clayton Kennedy, the head of the Ottoman-American Development Company, has expressed his intention of leaving America for Turkey this week, in order to begin work on the Samsun-Sivas railway before October 1, as stipulated by the concession.

The Chester concessions were not primarily connected with oil, although directed to that end; and it remains to be seen whether it is only the oil concessions that have been taken over by the Ottoman-American Company, or as is indicated by the latter part of the announcement, the whole of the Chester concessions.

The over-production of crude oil in America at the present times throws a lurid light on the predictions of the rapid exhaustion of the American oilfields that are launched from time to time for political purposes. American States are now producing on an average 2,250,000 barrels a day, as compared with 1,500,000 barrels a year ago. No doubt, this state of affairs will not last; it would not be in the interest of the companies that it should. But whether over-production will cease because, as some hold, the wells are becoming exhausted, or because, as others suggest, prices are being forced down to discourage production, must remain to be seen. Certainly petrol prices have been cut, and oil share quotations in America are showing the effect. On the other hand, it may be a fact that the fear entertained a few years ago that the United States was not going to be able to produce all the oil needed by their public sent a large number of people into the producing business, of which the results are only now being reaped. As wells do reach their zenith and then gradually fall off, it is possible that the phenomenal output to-day marks that particular stage, and will be inevitably followed by a smaller production, regardless of market operations.

A study of the movement of Roumanian oil shares has raised the question whether a deteriorating currency is an asset or the reverse from the point of view of sterling investments in oil property. Thus, to take the quotations in lei of the shares of a number of Roumanian companies for mid-August and mid-July respectively (the nominal value of the share being given in brackets):—Steaua-Romana (500) 4,850, 4,675; Astra-Romana (500), 8,600, 7,000; Astra-Romana (new), 8,500, 7,000; Sperantza (500), 7,800, 6,750; Concordia (250) 3,460, 2,300; Petrolul Romanesc (500), 1,675, 1,500. All these show on paper substantial improvements in the calendar month, but the real position could only be gauged by correlating the movement with that of the leu exchange, and of the prices of materials, labour, etc.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

KHEDIVIAL MAIL COMPANY.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship Company announce that their express steamers, Famaka and Fezara, carrying on the mail service between Alexandria and Constantinople, are, both outwards and homewards, again calling regularly at Smyrna. These calls had been for some months discontinued owing to the disturbed political conditions.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 26).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mangalore for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 11); s.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 20); s.s. Malakand for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22).

Bibby Line. S.s. Rialto for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, September 15); s.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 14); s.s. Dumana for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 15); s.s. Modasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 28); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 29).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macvicar for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, September 17).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia (Birkenhead, September 15); s.s. City of London (Birkenhead, September 29).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Tasso for Malta and Alexandria (London, September 19).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout for Greek, Levant, and Black Sea ports (Liverpool, September 22).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Flaminian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 21); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Aviemore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, September 15); s.s. Kenmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 26); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

RELEASE OF TURKISH PROPERTY.

The Board of Trade announce that, in view of the ratification of the Turkish Peace Treaty by the Grand National Assembly at Angora, they have given directions for the release of the sums of money which became due to persons who were treated as enemies owing to the war with Turkey, and which were paid to the Custodian, as well as of the Turkish property vested in him, including the proceeds of the sale of, or money arising from, vested property. Persons claiming such moneys or vested property should apply to the appropriate Custodian.

The Board of Trade have also issued a General Licence under the Trading with the Enemy Proclamations, the effect of which is to permit the payment or delivery to persons resident or carrying on business in Turkey of any sum of money or property which is, or but for the war would have been, due or deliverable to such persons in respect of a transaction entered into before the outbreak of war.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended August 10 amounted to £E7,157.

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British Consular Reports.

VII.—EGYPT.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the British Commercial Agent for Egypt, Mr. E. Homan Mulock, on the economic and financial situation of Egypt in 1922 :—

The year 1922, as compared with its three post-Armistice predecessors which have formed the subject of these annual reports, has been mediocre and unsatisfying in spite of indications to the contrary, such as a favourable trade balance, large exports of cotton, and a considerable budget surplus on March 31, 1923, the end of the financial year 1922-23.

During the years 1919 to 1922 inclusive the trade balance has varied between an excess of exports and re-exports combined over imports of £E32 million in 1919, and an unfavourable balance of trade of about 13 millions, in each of the years 1920 and 1921, concluding with a return in 1922 to the favourable situation of 1919, though with the very much smaller margin of just over £E 8 million.

The total foreign trade of Egypt fell from nearly £E 98 million in 1921 to just under £E 94¾ million in 1922, but this decline, though unsatisfactory from an economic point of view, is as nothing compared with the fall in 1921 from over 190 millions in 1920, to which the total had risen from well over 127 millions in 1919.

It is true that both the quantity and value of exports of cotton have increased during the year 1922 as against 1921, and in the 1921-22 cotton season as compared with that of 1920-21, but although the total quantity exported in the year 1922 was appreciably above the average for the years 1919 to 1921, the corresponding value does not compare at all favourably with the average value for the same three years, and the increase in quantity in 1922 over 1921 is not accompanied by so great a proportionate increase in value as one might be led to expect from so large a demand. This is even more so in the case of the 1921-22 cotton season, as compared with that of 1920-21, since, as the result of an increase in value of 65 per cent. as compared with a 70 per cent. increase in quantity, the price per kantar fell from £E 6.844 mms. to £E 6.631 or $34.21 to $33.15.

Weekly spot prices at Minet-el-Bassal, Alexandria, both of Sakellarides and Ashmouni (taking the Fully Good Fair grade in each case), have varied but slightly since, in spite of the former variety reaching a maximum level of $40.50 and a minimum figure of $29.50, both occurring in January, 1923, the mean for the year of weekly maxima and minima was only $35.79 and $33.02 respectively, while the corresponding figures for Ashmouni were only $26.54 and $24.75 in spite of a maximum of $31.25 and a minimum of $20.50 having been reached, also both in January, 1923.

Decline of Sakellarides Cotton.

A far more significant and disquieting feature of cotton prices during the period under review in this report is the narrowing of the margin that normally exists between the values of Sakellarides and Ashmouni on the one hand, and between that of Sakellarides and American cotton on the other. The normal difference between the Fully Good Fair grade of the two chief varieties of Egyptian cotton is from $10 to $12 per kantar, for both spot and futures, but during 1922 this margin fell from about $9 in January to about $6 in December, and dropped as low as $2 in February, 1923, rising again to about $3 on March 31.

A still more serious situation arises as the result of the narrowing of the premium between Sakellarides Good Fair and American Fully Middling. During 1922 the maximum weekly difference in dollars per kantar between the prices at Liverpool fell from $18.32 on January 6 to $5.45 on December 1, while the minimum fell from $11.89 in May to $3.70 in December. Similarly, as regards maximum weekly spot prices in pence per pound at Liverpool, the margin of 9.11d. on January 6, 1922, when Sakel stood at 20.50d. and American at 11.39d., fell to 2.40d. on December 8, when Sakel had declined to 16.75d. and American had risen to 14.35d.; and it may be of interest to note that on November 10, when American reached the highest weekly spot price recorded for the year 1922—viz., 15.65d., Sakel only stood at 18.40d., thus giving a margin of only 2.75d. This state of affairs is presumably in sympathy with the narrowing of the premium between Fully Good Fair Sakel and Middling American, which is due to the comparatively increased demand for short-stapled cotton, owing to the decreased buying power of the consumer; short-stapled cotton being used for necessities and finer cotton for articles of luxury. In addition, short-stapled cotton has to a large extent replaced long-stapled in the manufacture of tyres, especially in America.

The effect of this state of affairs on the economic situation of Egypt will be far-reaching if it tends to increase the cultivation of Ashmouni and shorter staple cottons on a considerable scale at the expense of Sakel, which can only hold its own with its more prolific Egyptian rivals so long as the margin of price is commensurate with the difference in yield per feddan (acre). Diminished cultivation of Sakel is therefore a contingency that must be envisaged and may have to be faced as a result of a persistent lack of demand or at best a fitful or unremunerative demand for this variety of cotton, which, although only introduced for the first time in 1911 has so far virtually superseded all other varieties, and assured Egypt's unchallenged supremacy as a producer of cotton for the finer counts.

Suffice it to say that in lower Egypt, where the proportion of Sakel averaged nearly 92 per cent. during the years 1917-21 and rose to about 97 per cent. in 1922, the percentage of varieties other than Sakel that is being sown this (1923-24) season is as high as 20 per cent. as against only about 3 per cent. in 1922-23.

It is quite impossible, assuming that so epoch-making and radical a change and reversal in cotton cultivation in Egypt does take place, to gauge or foresee how long the process would require, but the rise of Sakellarides itself, from obscurity in 1911 to undisputed prominence in 1915 and increasing supremacy over all other varieties from that year onwards, is a concrete instance of the rapidity with which an outstanding variety is capable of progressing in popular favour, while the complete fall from grace of Mit Afifi during the years 1906 to 1914 and onwards may be taken as a possible indication of the fate that may await Sakellarides. Expressed in terms of percentages of the total areas under cotton in given years, the changes in the positions of Sakel and Mit Afifi were as follows :—Sakel rose from 7 per cent. in 1911 to about 47 per cent. in 1915—which was the lion's share in view of other varieties sharing the balance—and thence to 72.5 per cent. in 1918 and 77 per cent. in 1921, while Mit Afifi fell from 77 per cent. in 1906 to 50 per cent. in 1911, thence to 18 per cent. in 1915, and 2½ per cent. in 1918 and onwards, having actually reached in 1916, and since then maintained a lower level of percentages of cotton area than all secondary varieties, i.e., those other than Sakel and

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Ashmouni, which latter variety has never risen above 22 per cent. of the total.

The official estimate of crop visible on December 26, 1922, was 4,900,000 kantars, which allows a yield per feddan of only 2.72 kantars over a total area of 1,800,000 feddans. Assuming that 3.50 kantars per feddan is a fair and conservative basis for calculation, this figure would give an acreage of 1,400,000 for a crop of 4,900,000 kantars, which would constitute a genuine restricted area. Alternatively, applying the same basis of yield per feddan to the actual acreage of 1,801,843, the total crop for the 1922-23 season becomes 6,306,450 kantars, and the total yield 6,595,450 kantars.

The vagaries of demand are too well known to make it possible to forecast how much cotton will be exported between April 21 and August 31, 1923, but there would seem to be good grounds for hoping that the carry-over to 1923-24 will not be large; the more this hope is realised, the greater the chances of a rise in cotton prices during the 1923-24 season, resulting from the supply available being limited to or not much more than the crop that can be expected from a properly restricted area, so long as the yield per feddan tends to decrease, or at best, remain at a level appreciably lower than the average of pre-war years which, during the four quinquennial periods comprised in the years 1895 to 1914, fell from 5.47 kantars per feddan to 4.27. Many reasons are given by experts for the decline in the yield of cotton, but not the least of these is the lack of drainage in certain areas, which will not be adequately remedied so long as economies are effected at the expense of irrigation and drainage in Egyptian budgets.

Imports.

The decrease, amounting to over £E12 millions (viz., nearly 22 per cent.), which places imports about £E14½ millions below the average for the years 1917-21, is principally due to supplies of cereals having dropped to less than one-third of those of 1921, and to a considerable decline in imports of coal and metalware.

Owing to the greatly decreased imports of coal, wheat, and wheat flour, the United States constituted the country principally responsible for the total decrease in the value of imports, but the decline in the demand for these three commodities also considerably affected the value of imports from Australia and New Zealand, with a corresponding adverse effect on the share of the British Empire in total imports, in spite of an increase in supplies and value of wheat flour from the United Kingdom, and of so great an improvement in her position as a supplier of coal that, whereas the United States of America's share of the total quantity imported in 1921 was 42 per cent. and fell in 1922 to 8 per cent., the share of the United Kingdom rose from 46 per cent. to 91 per cent.

It is true that the decrease in imports from the United Kingdom is not large, relatively speaking, but it is serious in view of the fact that it constitutes a further downward step in the steady decline in the percentages of the British Empire in the total imports into Egypt that has been a feature of the years 1919 to 1922 inclusive.

It is earnestly to be hoped that United Kingdom manufacturers will not delude themselves into thinking that they are in no way to blame for this shrinkage of British trade, and that it is entirely due to external factors such as general trade depression and the difficulty of competing with low currency countries, as well as to internal factors, as being partly contributory to the decline in total trade. The comparison of British and foreign commercial activities and methods of business clearly indicates that, *inter alia*, the lack of consideration for, and support of, their agents or representatives, as well as the apathy towards the Egyptian market, that are shown by many British manufacturers, are to an appreciable extent responsible for the success of their foreign competitors, and the consequent gradual lessening of the foothold therein which in pre-war years constituted so marked and invariable a feature of British trade with Egypt.

Customs statistics are not yet available giving each country's inclusive total share for 1922 of each commodity it imports into Egypt, and, failing these as the only means of accurately comparing United Kingdom imports for 1921 and 1922 in detail, in this summary it is only possible to mention the most conspicuous instances of the amounts representing approximate thousands of £E which help to swell the total decrease in 1922 of £E2,206,144. These are: machines and parts not otherwise enumerated, 244; wrought iron or steel pipes and fittings, 199; cotton piece goods, printed, heavy, 170; printed, light, 27; ditto grey, light, 100; tinplate for petroleum tins, 143; household soap, 138; stationary internal-combustion engines, 87; iron and steel axles, wheels and springs, 80; bars or billets, 48; sheets or plates, 40; and iron or steel articles not otherwise enumerated, 43; sewing cotton in reels, 75; beer and whisky, 58; rails, 57; timber, 55; cotton clothing, 46, ready-made woollen clothing, 44; power pumps, 41. It is important to note that, as there were increases of varying dimensions in other kinds of goods, the total decrease in British imports above quoted is only the net decrease—a fact which makes the decline in British exports to Egypt all the more serious. The British Empire, whose imports have decreased by £E5 millions; the United States, which has dropped from over £E8 millions in 1921 to just over £E1½ million in 1922; and China, with a decline of half a million, are responsible for the shrinkage of imports by about £E12 millions.

(To be continued.)

IRAK AND NEJD.

(Continued from page 248.)

The losses sustained both by the Camel Corps and the tribesmen were heavy, but, in view of the very serious portent implied by the opening of hostilities with Ibn Sa'ud, I judged it necessary to obtain the instructions of His Majesty's Government, while keeping the Akhwan camp under aerial observation. On March 14, however, aeroplanes were heavily fired upon, and orders were, therefore, given for immediate measures in retaliation.

I lost no time in warning Ibn Sa'ud that the situation which had arisen was one of extreme gravity, and received from him an assurance that the Akhwan had acted without his authority, together with expressions of his deep regret for what had occurred and of his determination to inflict punishment on those who should be proved guilty. I acquainted His Majesty the King and His Highness the Naquib with the contents of this communication, which, together with my letter to Ibn Sa'ud, was published in the local papers. Meantime I had received instructions from His Majesty's Government to proceed with negotiations in the matter of the treaty between 'Iraq and Najd, and to inform Ibn Sa'ud that temporarily the frontier between the two States should be considered to run along the lines I had previously indicated to him, *i.e.*, including the wells and pasturages of the Dhafir, Muntafiq, and 'Amarat 'Anizah.

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GOLD PRODUCTION IN ROUMANIA.

The Roumanian Ministry of Industry publishes statistical data regarding the gold and silver output of Transylvania since the Armistice. In 1919 the amount of gold produced was 733 kilogrammes, in 1920 707 kilogrammes, in 1921 1,104 kilogrammes, and in 1922 a total of 1,337 kilogrammes was recorded. The silver production, which was 2,331 kilogrammes in 1919 and 2,135 kilogrammes in 1920, advanced to 2,862 kilogrammes in 1921, and fell to 1,954 kilogrammes in 1922.

The continual increase of gold production since 1920, it is pointed out, is largely due to the under-valuation of the Roumanian exchange as compared with its internal purchasing power. The consequence of this under-valuation was that the increase of the price of gold was greater than the increase of wages and other mining cost items. Consequently it was worth while to work mines which had been abandoned, because under normal conditions of equilibrium between home prices and exchange rates their yield was inferior to the cost of production. The mine at Zalatna is a case in point; it has recently been reopened, and its output is estimated at 50 kilogrammes per day. It may be anticipated, therefore, that the gold production for 1923 will be well in advance of that of 1922.

COTTON IN IRAK.

In the Report by Sir Percy Cox on the Administration of Irak (October, 1920—March, 1922) which has just been published, there are interesting references to the subject of cotton.

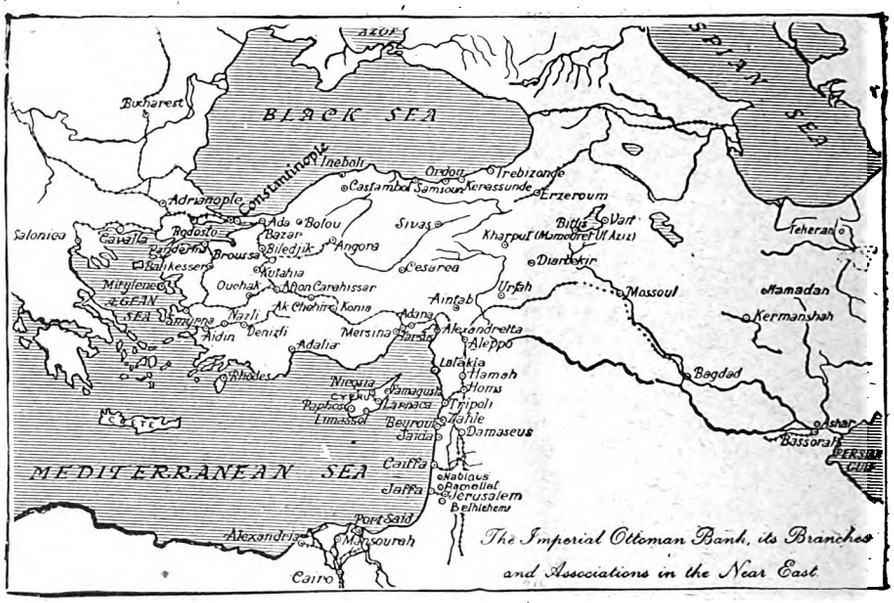
District work in the Baghdad area, the report states, was concentrated mostly on the Saqlawiyah and Yusufiyah canals, where it was anticipated there would be a good chance of cotton propaganda succeeding. Owing to adverse circumstances the crop on both canals was a distinct failure. Not only on the two mentioned canals, but elsewhere, the yields of cotton were very disappointing. This was due in part to exceptionally hot winds and consequent shortage of water, but the main difficulty lies as yet in the ignorance of the cultivators.

Late in the season a revised estimate of 350 bales was anticipated, but the total yield only amounted to about 60 bales. Thus the whole country produced less than was grown on 80 acres the previous year. It is unpleasant to have to admit defeat in the cotton season of 1921, but it must be remembered that this was the first year in which active propaganda had been undertaken, although much had been written about cotton previously. Irak undoubtedly holds out immense possibilities for the cultivation of cotton, but it is essential to bear in mind that progress will of necessity be slow. No useful purpose would be served by undue optimism, a fact which is likely to be again illustrated in 1922. The Yusufiyah area will probably yield promising quantities of cotton, but elsewhere reports are less favourable. Propaganda should be continued on areas like Yusufiyah, where cultivators are at last responding to instructions, and it is interesting to observe how in this area particular attention is paid to ridging the land before sowing. Wherever cotton has been cultivated on ridges the results have been good, whereas there have been nothing but failures reported wherever cotton has been grown on the flat.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.
Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

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Near East Markets.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date September 1:—

Currants.—Business was of the same restricted character, although on the whole an improvement in tone was noticeable. This was due to smaller estimates being mentioned for the new crop, mainly attributed to ravages and damage by worms. Later reports of the growing crop reduced the estimated yield to the very small figure of 85,000 tons, and from this there will be a further reduction of 15 per cent. for retention purposes; of course, if it is assumed that the consumption will equal that of previous years, there would be scarcely any doubt about a currant shortage. The anxiety manifested at the close of last month became more accentuated in the early days of August, some sellers becoming very insistent in their efforts to effect sales, and cleaned Amalias fruit was forced down to 50s., Gulf, Panariti and Vostizza also declined 6s. per cwt. Latest sales show an advance of 3s. per cwt. from the lowest. Further arrivals per "Pavia" and "Grodno" consisting of 650 tons were marketed, and considerable sales of Vostizza at 60s., 61s. were effected out of the latter steamer. New crop quotations seem now to depend almost entirely on the fluctuating exchange: ranging from 50s. c.i.f. for Pyrgos to as low at 40s. c.i.f., the latest price being 45s. c.i.f. for prompt shipment.

Raisins.—The Valencia crops have suffered great damage through the extreme heat which prevailed at the critical period of maturing, and latest estimates are as low as 5,000 tons, and in addition fully 15 per cent. will be unfit for export. Capes have benefited by the Valencia misfortune, and all arrivals have been absorbed as quickly as they were available at rising quotations. Latest sales are: Good average, 48s.; Fair, 44s. to 45s.; Third Grade, 32s. (in bags). Australian Lexias have also appreciated, selling at 42s. 6d.

Sultanas.—Notwithstanding the continued reports of the neglect of the vines through shortage of labour in Smyrna, the heavy stocks in the United Kingdom have caused holders to insist on making progress, and the downward movement has become more pronounced. Some excellent coloured, fresh keeping qualities passed into consumption at 54s. to 56s.; lower grades selling at 50s. to 53s.

Figs.—Practically no interest is being taken in forward quotations. Genuine Naturals quoted 23s. to 25s. c.i.f.

THE PLUM CROP IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA.

The Department of Overseas Trade has received from the Acting British Cousul at Sarajevo a report, based on information received from the local Chamber of Commerce, which states that the total crop of plums in Bosnia and Herzegovina is estimated to yield this year 250,000 tons, which will presumably be disposed of as follows:—2,000 tons to meet the requirements of the local market, 5,000 tons of chosen hand-picked plums to be exported abroad as dessert fruit, 3,000 tons to be employed for the fabrication of marmalade (pekmez), 50,000 tons to pass through the process of torrefaction, which will yield 20,000 tons of dried plums mainly intended for the purpose of exportation; the remainder of the crop to be used for the fabrication of a sort of brandy called "sljivovica" or "rakija."

It is anticipated that the plums of this season will be of a medium size, and, owing to their normal development, the sound consistency of the flesh, and considerable contents of saccharin substances, it is hoped that they will be able to stand even long transports by sea. The local Chamber of Commerce is prepared to give gratis any information which may be required in connection with the exportation of plums.

CROP PROSPECTS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary at Belgrade has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that, according to local Press reports, the grain crops this year are regarded as very satisfactory both from the point of view of quality and quantity. Wheat is calculated this year at 82 kilogrammes per hectare and barley at 76-78 per hectare. It is estimated that considerable quantities of cereals will be available for export.

It is stated that, with a view to fostering the milling industry, wheat will not be exported except in the form of flour. The mills in this country are equipped on modern lines, and therefore able to deal with very large quantities. Before the war Serbian flour was exported to Austria, Germany, Switzerland, England, Holland, Brazil, etc., and it is claimed that the quality is now equal to the most exacting demands.

The fruit crops are no less satisfactory. The last census of fruit trees in Yugoslavia in 1921 gave the following results:—Plum trees, 59,023,768; apple trees, 6,909,601; pear trees, 3,884,113; nut trees, 1,471,648; olive trees, 3,250,270; sundry trees, 4,855,880.

The estimates for this year's yield are:—Grapes, 5,000,000 kilogrammes; plums, 12,000,000; apples, 16,000,000; and pears, 1,000,000 kilogrammes.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Waggon Covers.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of impermeable waggon covers. September 25.

Block-Notes.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of 25,000 block-notes. October 1.

Steam Launches.—The Inspector-General of Irrigation, Khartoum, invites tenders for the supply of three steam launches required for the Upper White Nile Division, Sudan. October 1.

Steel Cabinets.—Tenders are invited by the Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, for the supply of fire-proof steel cabinets. October 11.

Roumania.

Cotton Linings for Carriage Upholstery, etc.—The Roumanian State Railways invite tenders for the supply of:—10,000 metres of cotton linings for carriage upholstery (width, 1 metre), 10,000 metres cushion cloth (width, 1 metre), 12,000 metres ticking ("coutil") for coverings (width, 0.90 metre), 10,000 metres hemp linings (width, 1 metre), 5,000 metres cloth for cleaning floors of carriages (width, 0.50 metre). September 12. (D.O.T.)

Lead Tubes.—The Roumanian State Railways are inviting tenders for the supply of 8,000 kilos lead tubes, assorted; 2,000 kilos each of 8 by 13, 20 by 25, 24 by 30, 30 by 20. Delivery of half the quantity is required to be made in two months and the balance in three months from the date of the receipt of the order. The Railway Administration reserves the right to reduce by half the quantities called for. September 29. (D.O.T.)

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

The Punjab development loan of one crore of rupees has been over-subscribed. The total reached on September 1 was one crore 88 lakhs.

Transfer books of the Mercantile Bank of India are being closed from September 5 to September 21 for payment of an interim dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on the "A," "B," and "C" shares.

It is stated that the Bulgarian Ministry of Railways, Posts, and Telegraphs has under consideration a scheme for setting up twelve wireless telegraphic stations in the principal towns of the country.

The first mail by the Baghdad-Haifa overland route left Baghdad last Thursday carrying 3,000 letters, and is due to arrive in London next Sunday. The letter surcharge of three annas amounts to half the air mail surcharge.

A general strike, says *The Times* Smyrna correspondent, has begun on the Ottoman Aidin Railway, and unless it is rapidly settled it will be a great blow to the dried fruit trade, which is now in full swing. Further labour troubles are feared.

A new company has been registered under the title of "British Albanian Development Corporation, Ltd.," with a nominal capital of £5,000 in £1 shares, to seek for and secure openings for the employment of capital in Albania and elsewhere, and to act as commercial advisers and agents.

India's total exports in June were valued at Rs.29.89 lakhs (against Rs.19.27 lakhs in June, 1922), while the imports amounted to Rs.17.98 lakhs (against Rs.16.19 lakhs). The figures for the three months ended June were:—Total exports, Rs.90.62 lakhs (against Rs.70.51 lakhs for the corresponding quarter); and imports, Rs.58.36 lakhs (against Rs.52.96 lakhs).

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Company Meetings.

AFRICAN AND EASTERN TRADE CORPORATION, LTD.

Annual Ordinary General Meeting.

Mr. J. H. Batty (chairman of directors) presided over the annual ordinary general meeting of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., which was held last Friday at Liverpool. There was a full attendance of directors and a large gathering of shareholders.

The Chairman, in his opening remarks, referred to the loss the West African trade had sustained by the death of Mr. Geo. Miller so soon after that of Mr. Alexander Miller, the founders of Miller Brothers (of Liverpool), Ltd., and Millers, Ltd., of London.

Continuing, the Chairman said the trading results for the twelve months under review had been again seriously affected by the continuance of the profound depression in trade experienced during the previous year. The market conditions in West Africa and elsewhere were in a much healthier state now; there were indications that the greater part of the surplus stocks had been realised, and that merchants generally were enabled to turn their attention more directly to making profits than to the liquidation of stocks. Produce markets had been, and were still, overshadowed by the adverse influence of the French occupying the Ruhr district. The immediate outlook gave the directors much anxiety, as the political position was more acute to-day than twelve months ago, and it was no use closing one's eyes to the fact that Germany industrially was being paralysed, and the wealth of a nation could rapidly be reduced to vanishing point by diminished output, and that was what was happening in Germany to-day. In pre-war days Germany was their best customer, and was practically the largest consumer of African raw material, and they had to find new markets for the produce exported from West Africa. One redeeming feature was the steady improvement in the economic conditions of Russia and Austria. Surveying the position as a whole, they could not look to any real revival of trade, or expect that the wheels of commerce would revolve harmoniously as in the past, until their politicians had effected a permanent settlement of all the international problems before them.

After surveying the figures in the balance-sheet (which showed a balance to the credit of profit and loss account of £452,455), the Chairman referred to the corporation's option on four oil concessions in the district of Half Assinie, in the Gold Coast Colony, comprising an area of some 150 square miles, and that a party consisting of two geologists had been despatched to investigate and report. As a result of their report, drilling engineers and boring plant were sent out, and the last report indicated that Well No. 1 was down 1,100 ft. and Well No. 2 1,300 ft. They were given to understand that oil may be struck at any time after reaching 2,000 ft., and the indications so far might be looked upon as favourable, and everybody on the spot was optimistic. Should they be so fortunate as to strike oil in payable quantities, it would materially add to the development and prosperity of this Colony. He felt it would be of immense advantage to the West African colonies and the trade in general if the Secretary of State for the Colonies would appoint an independent committee to investigate the whole system of administration and expenditure in these colonies. Such a committee would collect invaluable data which would prove of great assistance both to the administrators out there, the Colonial Office here, and the community as a whole. Just recently a "Private Enterprise" committee had been appointed by the Secretary of State, its purpose being to endeavour to encourage private enterprise and British capital to improve and develop transport facilities in West Africa. He hoped that the finding of this committee would revolutionise the policy of the past twenty-five years, which endeavoured to open up the interior of Africa by State railways, constructed departmentally. He attached great importance to the ultimate outcome of the Imperial Economic Conference to meet in October next, and he trusted that as a result they might get nearer to arriving at some practical method of improving production within the British Empire.

There was a movement on foot to establish an Imperial agricultural college on similar lines to the School of Tropical Medicine, so that they might have students within the equatorial belt highly trained in tropical agriculture, and who would be available throughout their tropical dependencies for the purpose of teaching and increasing the produce needed for the European markets. This project should receive their hearty support, and, if properly directed, might prove the foundation of a school of immense value, and greatly increase the available amount of raw material. They had in front of them a possible danger in the palm oil cultivation in Sumatra, and they might find, within the next ten or fifteen years, the cultivated oil palm ousting the wild indigenous oil palm in West Africa. The chambers of commerce had recommended to the Colonial Office the formation of a committee consisting of officials, experts, and merchants to investigate and put forward recommendations for the purpose of educating the native to use some intelligence and care in protecting and improving the oil palm in West Africa. In conclusion, the Chairman paid a warm tribute to the work of the staff both at home and abroad, and proposed the adoption of the report and accounts, which included the declaration of a final dividend of 4 per cent. (less tax), payable on October 1.

Mr. Robt. B. Miller (Vice-Chairman) seconded, and the resolution was carried by a large majority.

The retiring directors (Messrs. Robt. B. Miller, Lieut.-Col. W. Nicholl, Mazzini Stuart, and John Tunnicliffe) were unanimously re-elected.

The auditors (Messrs. Harmood Banner and Son) were re-appointed.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Danube Navigation Co., Ltd.

After charging all expenses, accounts for the year ended July 31 show profit £1,801, making, with £914 brought in, £2,715. It is proposed to write off £2,140, balance of preliminary expenses, and to carry forward balance of £575, as well as whole of foreign currencies. Last year a profit of £30,132 was shown, leaving, after deducting debit balance of £18,218 brought in, a credit balance of £11,914; from this £11,000 was written off preliminary expenses account and £914 carried forward as well as foreign currency credits.

Imperial Bank of India.

Net profits of the Imperial Bank of India for the half-year ended June 30 amounted to Rs.76,01,175 (against Rs.63,52,241 for the first half of 1922). The sum brought forward was Rs.10,56,650, giving a total of Rs. 86,57,825. The Governors have disposed of this total by paying a dividend at the rate of 16 per cent. per annum, free of tax (the same), by transferring Rs.12,50,000 to reserve (against Rs.10,20,000), by transferring Rs.5,00,000 to pension funds (the same), and by transferring Rs.5,00,000 to premises account (against nil), the balance of Rs.19,07,825 being carried forward (against Rs.16,28,436).

Grindlay and Co.

The balance-sheet of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., made up to June 30, shows that the capital has been increased by £20,000 to £120,000. Current, deposit, and other accounts amount to £1,625,006 (against £1,904,271 at June 30, 1922). Among the assets, cash in hand amounts to £123,168 (against £91,384); money at call to £45,790 (against £75,000); investments to £829,399 (against £958,106); and loans, bills discounted, etc., to £703,649 (against £836,781). The total of the balance-sheet is £1,745,006 (against £2,004,271). Of the above figure for investments, £45,657 is deposited with the Indian Government.

A Reuter message from Teheran dated August 29 states that a German steamer has arrived at Enzeli from Hamburg with a cargo of sugar and haberdashery.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	255-265
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	415-430
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.15-25.18
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4 3/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	97.35
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	975-995
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	80-90,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 1/16-1.4 3/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	790-815
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.53½-4.53⅝
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	80.25
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	153-153½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	106½-106⅝
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	465-505
Teheran	Krans to £	50	47½
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,150,000*

Nominal.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 644—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Liquidating the Crisis.

At the moment of writing, the Græco-Italian crisis is in a fair way to being liquidated. The Conference of Ambassadors has formulated its demands upon Greece, which bear a certain resemblance to the terms of the Italian ultimatum, and these have been accepted both by Greece and Italy. The Italian terms, it may be well to recall, were regarded as severe, but, with the single exception of the amount of the indemnity claimed, they were such as no responsible person would have counselled Greece in the circumstances to reject. The Ambassadors' terms emphasise the fact that the Janina murders were an outrage on the three Allied Powers, and associate Great Britain and France with Italy in the reparations and sanctions demanded. Greece is to carry out an investigation into the murders under the supervision of an Allied Commission, of which the Japanese delegate is to be the president; she is called to pay an indemnity the amount of which shall be determined in summary procedure by the Permanent Court of International Justice at The Hague, and in the meantime has to deposit (as she had already undertaken to do) a sum of fifty million Italian lire in the Swiss National Bank as caution money for this purpose.

The Moral?

As Europe's main concern is to pour oil on the troubled waters and to be rid of the crisis, there would seem to be no point in attempting to determine which of the two parties gains or loses more by these terms. It is to be hoped that not only Greece, but also all other countries where frontier lawlessness has been connived at, will learn from the incident that the policy does not pay. Not the least fault that could be found with the Italian ultimatum, as was pointed out in these columns last week, was that it concerned itself solely with the Janina outrage, and made no attempt to deal with the conditions which made such a crime possible. It would have been more in the interests of Europe if the penalty imposed upon Greece, instead of aiming at her humiliation, had compelled her to put an end for all time to the *komitaji* bands, which, in the different Balkan States, are mainly responsible for the unhappy reputation of the Peninsula. The Ambassadors' terms also fail to deal with the *komitaji* question. As far as Italy is concerned, there can be little doubt that she would have lost nothing, but, on the contrary, would have enhanced her prestige, and avoided a certain amount of odium, if she had in the first instance called upon the Conference of Ambassadors to deal with the matter. Unless Greece continues to live up to the phenomenal wisdom that she has shown in meeting the crisis, there is just a fear that her people will lose sight of the crime and the danger it entailed in the elation over having, as they may interpret it, their point of view *vis-à-vis* Italy endorsed.

The League of Nations.

A great pother is being made over the position of the League of Nations in regard to the Græco-Italian crisis. Italy is represented as having dealt a fatal blow to the League, and the latter is blamed for having blundered into its own undoing. Reflection, we imagine, will show that the quidnuncs who argue thus are quite wide of the mark. The object of the League of Nations, as set forth in the preamble to the covenant, is "to promote international co-operation and to achieve international peace and security," and so long as the end in view is attained it matters little who the immediate agent is. In the League the world has a recognised tribunal always at hand to which it can refer its disputes, and in the present instance the League fully played its part. The member against whom an appeal is lodged may often be tempted to dispute its jurisdiction; but its object remains the same, and it must be guided in its action by the one desire "to achieve international peace and security." In the case of the Græco-Italian dispute, it was obvious at the outset that the quickest route to peace lay through the Conference of Ambassadors, and it would have been folly on the part of the Council of the League to have refrained from using the Conference as its medium to peace. Strictly speaking, the occupation of Corfu comes within the competence of

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the League alone, but the latter can turn a blind eye to this point if evacuation follows on the fulfilment of the Ambassadors' demands. Of course, the League has not yet reached its full stature, and it may be conceded that it is not yet in a position to cope with mutiny on the part of any Great Power. But Europe, and, above all, the small States, have every reason to be thankful that the League is in existence. The terms of its Covenant provided a rallying-point for public opinion outraged by the crimes of Janina and Corfu, and the incident, we believe, far from weakening the League, will indirectly strengthen it by reminding those who feel strong enough to flout it that they will incur the condemnation of the whole world.

Italy and Great Britain.

We yield to none in the desire for the maintenance and strengthening of Anglo-Italian friendship, and we do not believe that when the crisis arising from the Janina murders has subsided, the relations between the two countries will be found to have been impaired. The provocation to Italy is admitted, and having regard to the difference in the Italian and the British temperament and to conditions in Italy, it may not be a matter for surprise that the Italian Government should have acted as it did. It would, however, have been a bad day for Great Britain and the world if the Italian action had not immediately roused British reprobation. There was no desire, it may be repeated, to belittle the Janina crime; that stood so self-condemned that comment upon it seemed almost superfluous, and the field was left open to a consideration solely of Italian action at Corfu. The instinct that made British opinion rally to the League of Nations was in every way sound. Too much contempt cannot be poured upon the doctrine that no act nor policy of another country must be judged on its merits, but must be considered entirely in the light of the amount of trade between Great Britain and that country. In spite of the fact that there is every reason why the British Government should wish not to alienate Italian goodwill at this particular moment, we believe that a more equivocal attitude over the Græco-Italian crisis would have been a grave disservice to the friendship between the two peoples.

The Fiume Problem.

Signor Mussolini seems to be bent upon harrowing Europe's nerves. Before she has settled her quarrel with Greece, Italy may find herself involved in fresh complications with Yugoslavia over Fiume. Dissatisfied with the slowness of the progress made by the Italo-Yugoslav commission engaged in elaborating a settlement of the Fiume question, the Italian Prime Minister sent a message to the delegates embodying his own proposals for a solution, and a suggestion that the Yugoslav Government should give a Yea or Nay answer by September 15. Judged by the new standard of international communications, it might not be fair to call this message to the Joint Commission an ultimatum; but Yugoslavia appears to credit Signor Mussolini with being a man of decisive action, and is reported to be taking steps not to be caught napping when she refuses to accept the proposed settlement. There cannot be the least doubt that the Fiume problem is capable only of solution by agreement. High-handed action, even if it imposes a so-called settlement despite Yugoslavia, will not bring progress or prosperity to Fiume, nor for that matter to Trieste. The fate of these two ports is linked up with the hinterland, and they can flourish only under a régime which identifies the interests of the ports, the railways and the interior. How far Italy and Yugoslavia are from a settlement on these lines does not need to be stated. It would be, however, a worthy goal for both countries.

The New Turkey.

With the submission of its programme of reforms to the National Assembly, the Angora Government enters upon the serious business of the reconstruction of Turkey. The comprehensiveness of its programme is a measure of the task awaiting it; but the fact that in his speech to the Assembly the Prime Minister placed financial matters in the foreground and expressed a readiness to engage foreign experts for administrative departments calling for specialist knowledge is of the best augury. Another noticeable point was the brief formal reference to Turkey's foreign relations—an indication that with the ratification of the Lausanne Treaty the Government recognises that its main preoccupation for the present will be internal reorganisation. If the determination to exterminate brigandage results in the introduction of law and order on the Syrian and Irak frontiers, Turkey will be setting a useful example to her Balkan neighbours. Finally, special attention is to be paid to education. Higher education is to be encouraged by sending students to Europe, and equal importance is to be attached to the education of girls as to that of boys. If care can be taken that the reforming zeal shall not be allowed to cool off, the new Turkey is starting under favourable auspices.

Cyprus.

The so-called National Council of Greeks in Cyprus, which represents those who are clamouring for union with Greece and others who find it politic to associate themselves with the movement, has been kept busy with protests against the new Education Bill and against the answer of the British Government to the latest memorial presented a few weeks ago by a delegate in London. It has recorded the "bitter disappointment of the country" at the Colonial Secretary's reply and has decided "to continue to pursue union with Greece." Safe in the knowledge that Mussolinis are not encouraged in the British Empire, and that Greece is not likely to compromise her relations with Great Britain by supporting the movement, the leaders of the union agitation can continue to keep themselves prominently before the islanders. Some appreciation of the fact that their past policy has not advanced the interests of Cyprus seems to have dawned upon them, and on the top of its stereotyped protests the "National Council" has declared itself willing to accept the proposed increase in the number of Greek seats in the Legislative Assembly. It requires, however, the present Assembly to be dissolved. Any return to reasonableness on the part of the Greek agitators will certainly find the British authorities ready to meet them. What would redound most of all to their credit would be the candid recognition, without sacrificing their desire for union with Greece, that world conditions at the present time are such that the question cannot possibly be held to come within the range of practical politics. They could then settle down quietly to co-operate with the British Government for the good of the island in the hope that circumstances beyond their control will ultimately make union feasible.

The Indian Elections.

Viewed from this distance, the prospects of the forthcoming elections in India cannot be described as particularly encouraging to the supporters of progressive constitutional development. A well-informed

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correspondent writes, indeed, of a marked growth of public interest, but since he measures the advance only by the number of candidates, it is clear that he, like so many Indians, is thinking in terms of politicians rather than electors, while it is as difficult as ever to distinguish any clear dividing lines in the programmes put forward by individuals. As is usual in such cases, candidates appear to be engaged chiefly in attempting to outbid each other in violence of language, or appeals to ignorant prejudice, and to be steering as clear as possible of anything which can fairly be described as constructive. Perhaps the newspapers tell us something less than the truth, for many Indian journalists are still apt to lay stress on what appeals to them personally rather than on matters which really interest the public, but, on the evidence they furnish, it looks very much as if the elections are to consist largely in a choice of language, if not of lungs.

Programmes of Destruction.

The examples of violence of language which reach us are much too numerous to be worth reproducing in the mass, but we notice that one worthy gentleman has high hopes of a policy for "bringing England to her knees," while another is burning with zeal to "strike a blow at the Empire," an institution of which he has obviously an imperfect comprehension. Such outbursts are apparently regarded in India merely as so many efforts to catch the votes of the ignorant, and if that view is correct, we are driven to the conclusion that the country has made an exceedingly poor use of the new opportunities for political advance, since either the speakers misjudge the electorate, or the electorate has not yet mastered the first letters of the alphabet of democracy. On the whole we incline to the optimistic view that the former alternative is nearer the truth, and that politicians, who are normally rather stupid folk, are still following the course they found convenient in the old days when an electorate did not exist, overlooking the fact that people who have power want to use it, and that something in the nature of a constructive policy is required under the conditions which now prevail.

A Constructive Lead.

From this point of view the most encouraging programme which has appeared so far is that of the Bengal Constitutional League, organised by Mr. S. R. Das, who stands for the policy of working the new Constitution for all it is worth, not worrying too much over demands for its amendment, but using the wide powers which already exist to pass much-needed measures of social and economic reform. The League seems to be making headway among the quick-witted inhabitants of Bengal, and it will be a most satisfactory result if Mr. Das finds himself at the head of a party sufficiently strong to influence Ministers, who have hitherto lacked any ballast of the kind. Not the least attractive item in his programme is the relegation to its proper place of the demand for "Indianisation," irrespective of the capacity of individuals for the work to be done. There are signs, indeed, that this cry is decreasing in popularity, and it is possible that by and by the whole group of service questions may be transferred from practical politics, where they do not belong, to the more appropriate region of administrative detail; but, apart from this particular item, the programme may be summed up as directed to putting Bengal on its feet, a line of action which most of us will prefer to the alternative of bringing England to her knees.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Italy and Britain.

It is evident that we are simply not going to be allowed to ignore, as we would, the existence of other peoples; foreign matters, such as the Japanese calamity and the Italian occupation of Corfu, obtrude themselves without any chance of being neglected. Over the Japanese affair no two opinions are possible, and sympathy everywhere is at least expressed; but over the Italian business you may hear all kinds of passionate argument. It is true that almost the whole British Press has been against the later actions of Signor Mussolini, but that, I think, does not count for much. As soon as the Press is unanimous you may suspect it; very certainly no such love for the League of Nations is actually entertained by most of those journals which are now professing it. Except by the academic Liberals and the sentimentalists no one in England until the present occasion had much use for the League; nor, moreover, was he afraid to point the finger of derision at it. Yet now that we think it may solve an ugly problem for us we loudly demand its application. No wonder that abroad we are judged as hypocrites.

Anglo-Italian friendship will, however, plainly survive, despite the lofty, impossibly remote attitude of our Press and the high doctrines of Rome. There are, let it at once be admitted, people in both Britain and Italy who would be undismayed at a complete rupture of cordial relations—for each thinks the friendship of the other unreliable and unworthy—but these are probably of little account. Friendships between nations do not, as those who would at this juncture seek to impose our British psychology on the rest of the world, rest on similarity of character or of conduct—hence the ludicrousness and the certainty of failure of the attempt to make Signor Mussolini act as, say, Lord Curzon would act—but, apart from the obvious and easily discernible bond of common interest, on common lines of culture and of feeling. No politicians can destroy the essential ties between Italy and Britain, just as neither politicians nor commercial men could forge real ties between Italy and Germany.

It would, therefore, be a quite genuine shock to the average Briton to find himself deprived,

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owing to the conduct of our League of Nations lovers, of the friendship of Italy, especially were he at the same time to find himself possessed of no compensating friendship., But at the moment it looks as though he will make no such discovery. The line of our action in regard to Corfu happily proved of more avail than our recent line of action in regard to the Ruhr, but few Continentals—unless one except the Germans—care greatly what we do. For the immediate future of Europe—and a little longer time than that—lies with the French, and if Paris backs Rome the rest of the world may do as it likes.

The Role of England.

Thoughtful men, the ordinary man, and even Mr. Lloyd George, are getting concerned about the rôle that England is to play in the world's affairs. It is exasperating, it is enervating, and it is shameful to witness her present impotence. What, then, everyone is asking, is to be done about it? Here is France, getting stronger and stronger every day, her plans maturing, her dependence on us hourly decreasing; and here is Europe, in present disorder, but destined to be ruled by a Franco-Polish-cum-Germanic-Russian-cum-Latin *bloc*, with ourselves dismally out in the cold. An economic boycott of Italy might bring her (so it is argued) to her senses (by which we mean our way of thinking), but what of the consequent decrease in our own trade and employment? On all sides you may hear complaints of our sorry domestic state coupled with complaints of the fall of our prestige abroad.

That is one side, the material side, of the problem. On the other you get people stressing the moral aspect. What, they say, is to become of the world unless there is some fundamental set of principles in it? If you let each nation be a law unto itself, anarchy is the inevitable result, and so on, and so forth. These are the people who wish, whatever becomes of Italy, to see the League emerge triumphant in the present affair. But the trouble may well be that, in an agnostic world, no "principles" are of the slightest use; they are applied when convenient only. It is well known, moreover, and especially to France and to Italy, that all the forces behind the League are not of the highest moral character.

How is England, then, whose political principles are the highest in the world, to escape the charge of hypocrisy on the one hand and of impotence on the other? To this question there can be no answer until we are again as united as we were in 1914. Meanwhile we continue to endure both charges.

Pay of the Services.

The report of the Committee on Pay of State Servants was issued last week, and it is rousing very furious controversy. Those who approve of things being done "in the spirit of the age" will probably approve its recommendations, which are decreases in the rate of Army and of Navy pay, and longer hours for Civil Servants. On the question of the fighting Services it is rather impertinent for a layman to comment, though one can reasonably doubt whether it is a good thing, from the point of view of efficiency, that our future officers should be drawn solely from the moneyed classes. The necessity for private incomes in the past was no evil, but—our moneyed classes are not now what they were!

The Civil Service will, I expect, find few outside its own ranks to plead its cause. For the community, generally speaking, is not fond of Civil Servants; their hours are short and their holidays long—neither of which blessings fall to the lot of the ordinary man. To impose an eight-hour day on them will, therefore, appear no hardship in the eyes of the outer, and, doubtless, unsympathetic world.

The Trade Union Congress.

I have read no impartial account of what the Trade Unions did at their Congress at Plymouth, so that my impressions are the same as of the typical ignoramus—that is, I know that several members quarrelled with each other (just as they do and possibly as sincerely as they do in Parliament), that certain of them took the opportunity to denounce Signor Mussolini, and that the *Daily Herald* was voted a respite of three months. All of which amounts to very little, and will be forgotten when it is seen that the Italian Premier is as securely in the saddle as ever and when December is finished!

The New Tivoli.

If there is anything at once more typical and more revolting in our civilisation than pretentious, theatre-like "picture-palaces," I am very happy to boast my ignorance of it. And the trouble is that the picture-house is still a paying proposition. Our latest addition is in the Strand, the new Tivoli, which was opened the other day as if it marked an epoch in the history of our Empire, with, I believe, an organ playing, Mme. Kirkby Lunn singing the National Anthem, and so on. All this slush is American, but it seems that the theatre itself is an American idea, for it is to be worked on the "key-theatre" system. Metro pictures are to be shown at this theatre before any other screen gets them. What a horrible person the first-night film-goer will be!

The West Indies.

The West Indian cricket team made the jolliest impression here. Not only did their cricket improve enormously as the rays of our churly sun grew stronger, but they themselves grew in favour with our English crowds. Several of the counties they beat squarely, and they finished up by giving a representative English team a rare fright by getting in the second innings six very good wickets down for less than thirty runs! This feat was entirely due to first-class fast bowling—which our batsmen have never played with confidence since the War—and to excellent fielding. Probably it was the Indians' fielding that more than anything else endeared them to English crowds; it was so alertly and so happily performed.

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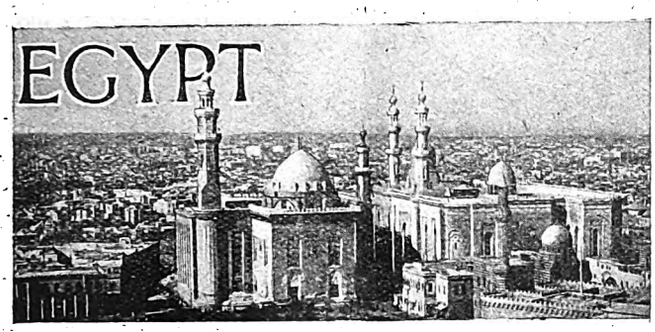
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, August 30.

The Return of Zaghloul Pasha.

Saad Pasha Zaghloul has cabled to the Wafd that he will sail from Marseilles to Alexandria on September 12, arriving at the latter port on the 16th, "to resume his duty towards his country and his King." Hitherto the "venerable leader" and his followers have not been over meticulous about their loyal obligations, Zaghloul Pasha having repeatedly and pointedly neglected to sign his name in the Palace visitors' book; but now all that is to be changed. The Zaghloulists are to be the ultra-constitutional and the most devotedly loyal of parties combined in one. It is devoutly to be hoped that they will find no difficulty in reconciling the two rôles.

Already the native Press is agog with excitement over the homecoming of the national idol. A representative of the Wafd has been delegated to interview the Prime Minister to ascertain what will be permitted in the way of a welcome. It is not anticipated that there will be any serious official restrictions on any programme which the Wafd may draw up. Such action by the Government would not only be very unpopular, but also, so far as can be foreseen, unnecessary. When Zaghloul Pasha returned to the country after two years' absence in the spring of 1921, a time when political feeling was far more intense than now, no check was placed on the rejoicings of his admirers. There were wonderful demonstrations of affection in Alexandria and Cairo, but no disorders. Indeed, the day's toll of crime was far below the average of a normal twenty-four hours. Even the pick-pockets sought, by taking a holiday, to prove that they were not insensible to patriotic feelings.

If a peaceful return was possible two years ago, it should be far more so now. There is, after all, nobody who is likely to try to stir up trouble. Zaghloul Pasha has plenty of opponents, but they are not the kind of antagonists to adopt stone-throwing or head-breaking tactics to prove their opposition. The difficult period will not be the day the Pasha sets foot once more on Egyptian territory, nor even the period immediately succeeding his landing. It will be when he has had time to recover from the fatigues of travel, to take stock of the situation, and to forge his thunderbolts, that the authorities entrusted with the preservation of public order will have to look out for storm signals. It is to be hoped that, even then, apprehensions of what may happen will prove to have been ill-founded. Zaghloul Pasha comes home to a great opportunity to show that those who have called him stubborn, unpractical, intolerant of opposition, are wrong, and that he can respond to the need for a statesman.

Disquiet Among the Officials.

I referred in a previous letter to the uneasiness manifesting itself among certain classes of Government officials. This feeling has been in nowise abated by happenings during the past few weeks. Hitherto, the services of pensionable officials have not usually been dispensed with excepting on account of the suppression of their posts. There have been, of course, dismissals of officials for misconduct or inefficiency, but, provided that a Government servant carried out his duties efficiently and conscientiously, he could rest assured that he would be continued in the service until, in the normal course of events, he attained the age-limit and could retire to enjoy his pension. Such a sense of security is an obvious essential to the piece of mind of the official and, consequently, to the proper carrying on of the country's affairs. If a State servant does not know from day to day whether he is going to be dismissed, he cannot devote to his work the undivided attention which the country has the right to demand. Unfortunately, recent decisions of the Council of Ministers have resulted in creating just such a condition of uncertainty in the minds of a very large number of officials.

About a month ago the Council of Ministers, without any warning whatever, decided to place on pension two officials who, although they had both served over thirty years, had still some years to go to reach the age limit. This was done without any warning whatever, and the first thing the officials themselves knew of the matter was when they read the Council's decisions in the newspapers. Curiously enough, these two Government servants were both Syrian Christians, and, equally curiously, the English head of their department was at home on leave. At the last sitting of the Council of Ministers two more officials, both occupying important positions, and both, so far as their ability to serve the Government was concerned, in the best years of their lives, were similarly treated. Again, curiously enough, both were Christians—one a Syrian and the other a Copt.

In view of these happenings it is little wonder that the officials who are not Egyptian Moslems feel that their positions are insecure. But the feeling is not confined to Christians not of local birth. Moslem officials, too, are disquieted. Wherever one goes nowadays into the company of Government officials one hears the same story, "We don't know what is going to happen to us." Almost every third official seems to be holding a post temporarily, not receiving the pay of the work he is doing, not knowing whether he is to be confirmed in his position or not, and, generally, worried to death about his prospects. British officials are constantly being approached by their

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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Egyptian subordinates with requests for support in getting individual problems settled, but, though the popular belief in British fairness and even omnipotence which the past forty years has built up is still strong, the British officials in the Government are now, for the most part, powerless to do anything for anybody. Their chief concern, naturally enough, is for their own uncertain futures.

The Ramleh Tragedy.

The tragic death of Princess Abbas Halim at Ramleh last Friday gave rise to the inevitable crop of rumours and wild stories, all of which have been proved to be baseless. There seems to be no doubt whatever that the unfortunate lady's death was purely accidental. No reason whatever has been put forward for any contrary supposition. She and her husband, a charming young man of European tastes, were a devoted couple, and to all appearances lived in perfect happiness. But, coming hard on the heels of the shooting of Aly Bey Fahmy in London, a full crop of sensational stories regarding the latest tragedy was, perhaps, inevitable.

Jerusalem, August 27.

The Palestine Development Council.

As elsewhere, so also in Palestine, August seems to be an uneventful month. Perhaps the most outstanding event here has been the visit of Judge Julian Mack, a distinguished American Zionist leader, and one of the organisers of the "Palestine Development Council," popularly known as the "Mack-Brandeis Group." He and his fellow-American Zionists seek to put Palestine Jewry on a stronger basis by "business methods," in place of the prevalent methods, in accordance with which the Jews of Palestine live under a more or less —and rather less than more—disguised Charity Organisation Society system, which—human nature being what it is—has failed to get the last ounce of effort out of the Palestine Jew; for the latter could always know that subsidies would be forthcoming to make good his deficiencies. The "Palestine Development Council" seeks to raise money abroad, and mainly in America, to be invested in various ways in Palestine—banks, loans, buildings, and the like—capable of producing an 8 per cent. return, both justifying the investor and enabling and compelling industry from the beneficiaries.

The Orientation of Zionism.

The outcome of the recently concluded Thirteenth Zionist Congress at Carlsbad will serve to strengthen the hands of the "Mack-Brandeis Group" and bring them into the full stream of Zionist activities. It will be remembered that more than a year ago they broke away from the "Eastern," i.e., East European Zionists, on this same question, viz., the control of the funds that were being raised; the American Zionists favoured investment rather than charity, and argued that carefully organised and supervised expenditure was of more lasting value to the cause than spasmodic appeals to the generosity of the wealthier sections of Jewry. If the Zionist movement was not to die of starvation, there was never much doubt as to the outcome of the division of opinion. Dr. Weizmann and Mr. Sokolow, as practical politicians, had already consented to the reduced political terms offered by the Colonial Office's interpretation of the Balfour declaration, and now they have accomplished the more difficult and delicate task of shifting the centre of gravity of internal Zionist politics from East to West, from Russian idealism which first set the movement alight, to Western and American practical methods which, as the Zionist leaders seem now to have assured themselves, is the only way to ensure the movement's present and future.

Mr. Ussishkin.

This change of policy involves a change of personnel. So far as Palestine is concerned, the chief interest is shown in the fact that the rule of Mr. Ussishkin, since 1919 the strongest item in the local Zionist Executive, now comes to an end. He is a man of remarkable influence and force of character, as is clearly shown by the intense admiration and equally intense detestation which he has extorted from local Jews. For good or for evil his will and policy have dominated conditions here; the manner of man he is is well described in Mr. Philip Graves' "The Land of Three Faiths." He is blamed for the unsympathetic relations which have, at one time or another, existed between the Zionist Executive and the British Administration; whether he can fairly be held accountable for the bad relations between the Jews and Arabs is more doubtful. He is known to the Jews as "the man of iron," and though inflexibility of purpose and single-mindedness may sometimes be admirable traits of character, they have their drawbacks when, as is inevitable for a Russian assuming responsibility in an eastern cauldron like Palestine, the necessity arises for adapting himself to new conditions. He has, to say the least, failed to follow that excellent advice "to be soople in things immaterial"; here it may be important what you do, but it is infinitely more important how you do it; and where Zionist activity has most certainly mis-manœuvred in Palestine is its intentional or unintentional,

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but anyhow incomprehensible, failure to make use of the experience of oriental Jews, or Jews who have had a lifelong experience of Arabs and Arab mentality. Only less fatal has been the Zionist error of failing to utilise locally Jews with some experience of the mentality of British officialdom. It may be hoped that both errors can now be rectified, though in the first case it is impossible to recover all the ground lost.

King Hussein

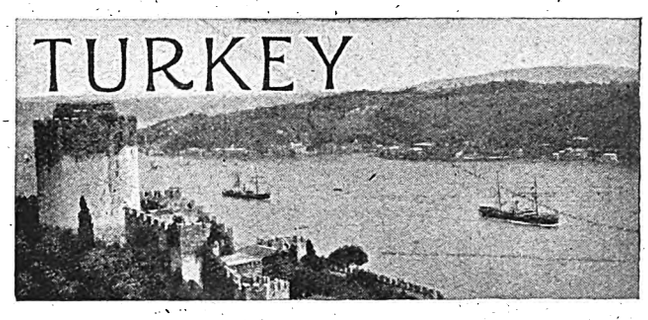
We have just had a milder repetition of King Hussein's ill-timed efforts of three months ago to encourage Palestinian Arab ambitions. At the beginning of last week a Palestinian Delegation returned from Mecca where they had gone for the main purpose of raising interest and funds for repairing the Moslem shrines in Jerusalem. King Hussein sent back with them, as his representative, Sayyid Abbas el-Malki, to assure Palestinian Arabs of his interest in them and their needs. Last Wednesday this representative was given a reception by the Moslem-Christian Association, to which Arab notables from all parts were invited. Sayyid Abbas' intentions may have been primarily to voice King Hussein's interest in the repairs of the Haram, but the local Arabs have shown most interest in his remarks about the draft Anglo-Arab Treaty. King Hussein was made to say that he would refuse to sign the treaty unless it made Palestine entirely independent and a party in the Pan-Arab Confederation that is to be.

The Moslem University.

The Moslem Supreme Council announces that the Moslem University in Jerusalem will be opened this year on October 5. It is to be of precisely the same scope as el-Azhar in Cairo, i.e., it will not be a University in the modern Western sense, but one where the primary subject of study is Mohammedan religious law and Koranic commentaries, and the principal purpose the equipping of Mohammedan lawyers and learned sheikhs. At the same time we hear of another "university" to be opened this year; but, like most things Palestinian, it will be an object more of faith than of fact. In this case the project comes from the Latin Patriarch. The "university" is to have four faculties—Medicine, Engineering, Law, and Letters. The director is to be an Arab, and none but Palestinian-born Arabs will be admitted. The main languages employed will be English and Arabic, but Italian and French will not be excluded. A preparatory division will be opened shortly, containing three classes for the teaching of elementary subjects. Thus, in spite of the name, this "university" is no more than a secondary school, run under Latin auspices and of uncertain standards, and called a "university" to deceive the simple Palestinian.

Hostel Accommodation.

Certain prospective English tourists to Palestine may find it useful to know that the authorities of the English Cathedral in Jerusalem are arranging hostel accommodation for English people who prefer to avoid the uncertainties of hotel life. The venture is beginning on a small scale, but if necessary more elaborate measures will be taken.



Constantinople, September 4.

Farewell Functions.

The evacuation of the British forces is proceeding apace, and ceremonies of adieu are taking place. A notable function was the garden party given by General and Lady Harington at Therapia on August 29, to which were invited numerous representatives of the naval and military forces of the Allies, of the Allied civil colonies, and prominent Turkish official and social personages. Nearly 500 guests had a delightful afternoon on the terrace and in the grounds of the Summer Palace, where tea was served and dancing took place after tea. The function served to illustrate very clearly the affection and respect with which our hosts are regarded by every one in Constantinople irrespective of race and political predilection. We are likely to have an orgy of similar functions in the near future, for the British colony is preparing for a farewell garden party to the British Army, and the Turkish authorities are reported to be going to reciprocate General Harington's hospitality.

General Harington's Review.

Last week General Harington broke the rule he has observed for a year, and granted an interview at G.H.Q. to a representative gathering of local journalists. At that interview he gave his hearers a succinct review of the scope and aims of his task in Constantinople, and of the spirit in which he had endeavoured to carry it out. He laid emphasis on the fact that his task was a military one, both in Constantinople and at the Mudania Conference, and that the Allied military authorities had to follow the instructions of their respective Governments, but that he had consistently endeavoured to maintain strict neutrality against all assaults or attempted assaults on the *status quo* at Constantinople. The task of maintaining order in Constantinople in the explosive circumstances had not been an easy one, and perhaps, he said, it could have been easier if he had been ruthless and cruel; but he claimed, and no one will dispute that claim without laying himself open to the charge of blind bias, that he had tried to be fair and just towards every one, and to respect the feelings of the Turks. He shortly alluded to the work that had been done towards alleviating the sufferings of the successive convoys of refugees, and to the attempts made to improve the material conditions in the city and its surroundings, the work of the Sanitary Commission, the improvement of the

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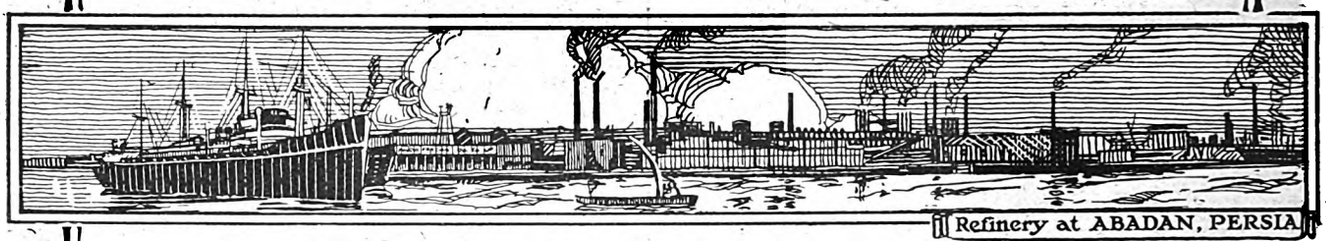

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roads, the unremitting and capable efforts of the military fire brigade, and so on.

The Question of Fires.

Full subscription may be made to all that he said. His remarks concerning the fire brigade were particularly pertinent in that on the previous Sunday a disastrous fire, which wiped out the village of Sariyar, on the Bosphorus, and threatened the adjoining village of Buyuk Dere, was arrested entirely by the efforts of the British brigade. As it was, about 600 houses were destroyed and 1,500 people rendered homeless. This question of fire-fighting organisations and appliances is the burning question of the hour, and various schemes are afoot for increasing their efficiency. As long as great areas are covered with wooden houses, fires are bound to be frequent owing to the elementary heating, lighting, and cooking arrangements. The insurance of such house property is almost impossible in any circumstances, but when it is a matter of common knowledge that practically the only appliances available are small hand-pumps, which might, *à la rigueur*, be of some use for watering the garden, it is obvious that such property is absolutely uninsurable. The Turkish Press, *à propos* of the recent fire, has shown itself somewhat restive at the sight of the complete inefficiency of its fire brigade, and is strenuously propaganding for the purchase of modern engines and so forth, but, having often seen the brigade at work, one is convinced that the trouble is not with the appliances, but with the personnel, who have not the faintest idea of how to utilise what they have or to tackle a fire in a workmanlike fashion. The authorities should either put their fire brigade through an apprenticeship under the direction of foreign experts, or if that is too damaging for their pride, they should send some of their own people abroad for a course of instruction.

The Post Offices.

Among the other consequences of the Treaty of Lausanne is the abolition of the foreign post offices on Turkish territory. The British Post Office here is closing on September 27, and on and after September 25 all postal material received from the United Kingdom will be handed to the Turkish Post Office for delivery. It is stated that the Turkish Post Office has already engaged a considerable amount of extra staff to deal with the increased work. Until the present time the manner in which the Turkish post has dealt with the foreign mail has been most satisfactory; their weakness has been the local distribution. If they can organise a really rapid and frequent delivery of letters throughout the Constantinople area, they stand a good chance of benefiting the exchequer to an appreciable extent. At present every business house employs the costly and cumbersome method of distributing its local letters by hand; but they would all give up that method at once if they could be provided with the postal facilities enjoyed by any town of over 50,000 inhabitants in Western Europe.

The Bourse at Constantinople.

The Council of Commissaries has just published comprehensive rules for the Constantinople bourse, which are obviously inspired by those in force on the Paris bourse. The number of *agents de change* is limited for the present to sixty, and they must be of Turkish nationality. They and the brokers and jobbers will all be specially registered and pay in a cautionary deposit to the State. They are forbidden to carry out any operations for their own account, but are to act solely as intermediaries, who must be ready to give the name of the client for whom they are carrying out any operation. A number of detailed regulations are published whose object is to ensure that the principle of strict control against speculation is carried into practice. The idea is undoubtedly sound; but we hope that the Turkish authorities will not persist in their mistaken theory that every downward movement of the Turkish currency is due to the machinations of the small bunch of financial manipulators on the Galata bourse. The cry of speculation is raised at once when the lira goes down 20 points, and people appear to assume that once you restrict the activities of these gentry there will be a marvellous recovery of Turkish credit. The sooner they disabuse their minds of this idea and concentrate upon effective measures for increasing the productivity, and, consequently, the exports of the country, the sooner the Turkish lira will appreciate. The Press is already alive to the seriousness of the expert labour question, and is beginning to imply more or less openly that the recent policy of the expulsion of allogeneous elements has been a serious mistake, which will have to be rectified.

Exchanges of Populations.

The practical measures to give effect to the exchange of populations agreement do not seem to be moving very fast. The Turkish Government is reported to be trying to find the funds by the sale of abandoned properties; but it is realised that that amount will not go very far towards it. Another proposal that is being ventilated is that a land bank with a capital of 15 to 20 million Turkish pounds should be founded to finance the operations. The only comment on this is that if they wait for the fruition of such a scheme the exchange will never take place. In any case, every one seems to have decided that very little exchanging can be done this year, although the Greek Government is supposed to be taking active measures to get rid of the exchangeable elements. All one can say is that the longer the exchange is put off the better for the wretched people who come under the provisions of the agreement.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, September 6.

Birth of the Heir Apparent.

At this moment of writing the castle guns are booming out the glad news of the birth of an heir to the Crown. A few days ago it appeared likely that the royal baby would be born a Carniolian highlander at the King's summer residence in Bled. But at the last moment their Majesties decided to return to Belgrade, which has, after all, an indisputable claim to the honour of being the birthplace of the first heir to the crown of Yugoslavia—the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes.

The Græco-Italian Incident.

As the Adriatic problem is profoundly affected by the Fiume question, Yugoslavia, as a whole, is not disinclined to take sides against Italy in the present difficulty between her and Greece. But it is equally out of the question that she

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should take sides for Greece. Her experiences during the War, the unsettled question of the Yugoslav zone in Salonika, the harsh treatment accorded to the Serb national minority of 400,000 souls in Greece, and, finally, the prevailing poor opinion of the Greek Army—all these are reasons urging Yugoslavia to observe an attitude of strict neutrality in the conflict.

The Internal Situation.

The Communal Elections in Serbia and Montenegro have resulted in a complete victory of the Radical party. The all-Radical Government has been justified by them. With these Communal Elections the struggle between Radicals and Democrats has entered upon its decisive phase, and it is safe to say that the final victory will be for the Radicals. The Democrat party is going downhill; its heirs are the Radicals and the Agrarian Party, which quintupled the number of its communes in these elections. But whether the strength of the Agrarian Party will suffice for it to challenge the power of the Radicals is still uncertain, as the party has grown from the peasant class and lacks intellectual leadership.

The immediate consequence of the Communal Elections is that the Radicals can now at any moment appeal to the electorate, that they will put through the elections for the district councils, and therewith carry out the most ticklish point in the Constitution.

That they can safely take this daring step is due to M. Raditch, who, by his flight to England, has filled the ranks of the Croatian *bloc* with confusion. But confusion renders all resistance impossible. This flight has had yet another disastrous consequence for the Federalists. The Slovene Clericals are deserting M. Raditch, and the Spaho group are preparing to do the same.

The Catholic Assembly in Liubliana, which was held in great pomp and graced by the presence of the King, the Government, and the Papal Nuncio, was the overture to this change, and the first stepping-stone for the entry of the Clericals into the Government. There have already been negotiations to this end, and the Radicals have at least scored this much, that they can already use the Clericals to make short work of the stubbornness of the Djemiyet. Truly, the Radicals owe much to the help, intentional and otherwise, of the Opposition Parties!

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

Letters intended for publication MUST be accompanied by the writer's full name and address, not necessarily for publication, but as an evidence of good faith. They should be worded as briefly as possible and must be written on one side of the paper.

AMBULANCE WORK IN INDIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—You very kindly allowed me to protest in THE NEAR EAST of July 5 against the habit so prevalent in the Press of India of submerging the St. John Ambulance in the Red Cross. You not unjustly denounced my heading as "ungainly" and as affording an excuse for the Press of India's inaccurate brevity, and I therefore now give you a heading against which can be urged neither inaccuracy nor prolixity. Further, I propose to make my letter nearly as brief as my heading.

The point is this. The Order of St. John of Jerusalem began ambulance work in India fifteen years before the Red Cross Society had the smallest footing in that vast and all-important dependency. But for that, when the "Red Cross" went to India for the War, they would have found nothing whatever ready to their hand.

When on July 21, 1910, the late Viscount Knutsford spoke in the House of Lords on "Territorial Force Ambulance," he, in dwelling earnestly on the value of the St. John Ambulance certificate, made the following reference to work in India:—

> "It (*i.e.*, the diminution of the value of the certificate) would be a fatal blow in India, where we have done magnificent work, helped by Lord Curzon, Lord Minto, Lord Kitchener, and, amongst others, by Lieut.-Colonel A. Yate, who did very good service in promoting that work; and also in almost every colony (those with responsible government as well as Crown Colonies), where we have active working centres in close touch with the Ambulance Department here."—"Parliamentary Debates, House of Lords," Vol. VI., No. 45, col. 386.)

Were the words of Lord Knutsford more valid in 1910 than they are to-day? Is the value of the St. John Ambulance certificate less to-day than in 1910? Are the St. John Ambulance centres in India and the Colonies less flourishing to-day than in 1910? Did Lords Curzon, Minto, and Kitchener take up the St. John Ambulance work in 1905 with the idea that later on the "Red Cross" would engulf it? When our present King visited India in 1905-06 as Prince of Wales, Lord Kitchener, in a memorandum drawn up by himself, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, and Dr. Lefroy, Bishop of Lahore, invited His Royal Highness to show the interest he took in the St. John Ambulance Association. His Royal Highness did so on two occasions.

The whole nation and Empire is well aware that not only our Royal Family, but all grades of British society, are heart and soul behind the work both of the St. John Ambulance and of the Red Cross, and there is not the smallest reason why the two should not work side by side, but independently, for the general weal. New men arise and prate of amalgamation. Nothing is to be gained by amalgamation. Rather the reverse. Sixty years bear witness to the good work of "St. John," and it is distinctly for the public benefit, in peace and in war, that that good work should continue under, and solely under, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE, Lieut.-Colonel,
Hon. Organising Commissioner of the St. J.A.A. in India from 1900 to 1910.

Beckbury Hall, Shifnal, August 13, 1923.

EGYPT AND THE SUDAN.

The *Sphinx*, of Cairo, has just published an entertaining special tourist number, entitled "Egypt and the Sudan." In it is mentioned practically everything that is likely to interest the visitor to Egypt or the Sudan—specific things such as historical buildings, excavations, and sport, or such "atmospheric" affairs as the charm of Egypt's society, her colour, her health and pleasure giving properties, and so on. The volume is admirably produced, with many extremely fine photographs, and is, in short, a very effective piece of propaganda.

Professor MacAlister, Director of the Palestine Exploration Society's intended excavations on the Mount of Olives, arrived in Jerusalem last week.

The first batch of troops to return from the Near East reached Southampton last Thursday in the transport Somali, and were accorded a civic reception by the Mayor and Corporation. They included the 2nd Battalion East Yorkshire Regiment and detachments of Artillery and Engineers.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 13 (New Style).
August 31 (Old Style).
Saphar 1, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 3, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Queen of Roumania has arrived in Belgrade.

Prince and Princess Nicolas of Greece have left London for Paris.

M. George V. Mélas, Secretary to the Greek Legation, has returned to town from Paris.

Mr. Amery, First Lord of the Admiralty, left Malta last Thursday for a short visit to Constantinople.

Almina Countess of Carnarvon, who is spending the early autumn in Scotland, will leave in October for Italy.

General Sir Charles Monro left England last Friday to take up his duties as Governor of Gibraltar.

Sir Tej B. Sapru has arrived with his son at the Carlton Hotel on a private visit. He has been the guest of His Majesty's Government this week.

The Maharaja of Baroda, the Maharani of Baroda, and Princess Sakhuntala have arrived with their respective suites at Suvretta House, St. Moritz.

M. Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister in London, will return to 51, Queen's Gate in the last week of September from the Villa des Trois Sources, Varna, Bulgaria.

The marriage arranged between Mr. Brogrove Campbell Beauchamp and Lady Evelyn Herbert will take place on October 8 at St. Margaret's, Westminster.

The Duke of Connaught will preside at the dinner to be given by the Royal Colonial Institute at the Hotel Victoria on October 2 to meet the Overseas Prime Ministers and the representatives of India at the Imperial Conference.

Princess Ileana of Roumania, who has been staying with the Infanta Beatrice of Spain at Brownsea Island, Dorset, left Southampton on September 11 for St. Malo, where she is spending several days with the Grand Duchess Cyril of Russia at St. Briac.

During the absence of the Right Rev. Dr. MacInnes, Bishop of the Church of England in Jerusalem, the Ven. Archdeacon Waddy will act as Bishop's Commissary in Palestine. Dr. MacInnes will return to Palestine toward the end of October.

General Sir John Maxwell, D.S.O., will act as chairman for Mr. Howard Carter's lectures on the "Tomb of Tutankhamen" at the New Oxford Theatre on the afternoons of the 25th and 28th inst. There will be lantern slides and a film never before shown.

The Chargé d'Affaires of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes left London last Friday for Paris, having been summoned there to meet the Yugoslav Prime Minister, M. Pashitch.

The retirement of Colonel C. R. Ballard, C.B., C.M.G., who since February, 1920, had been President of the Allied Police Commission in Constantinople, took effect last Saturday week. He had served in many places, including Burmah, the North-West Frontier, Somaliland, Ceylon, and Roumania.

The following have been appointed to represent India at the Imperial and Economic Conferences: The Secretary of State for India, Viscount Peel, Mr. C. A. Innes, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., member of the Governor-General's Council, India, and Mr. D. M. Dalal, C.I.E., High Commissioner for India.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mirza Morteza Gazvini, head of the firm of Gazvini and Co., 16, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, has been appointed acting Persian Consul in London in succession to the late Mr. Roderick Mitchell.

Hungary has established a Consulate-General for Egyptian territory, and Baron de Menasce (belonging to a well-known banking family in Alexandria) will be the first Consul-General.

M. Kacos Kyriakides has been appointed Secretary to the Greek Legation in London.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1923.

THE TWO CRIMES.

Italy during the past week has provided the spectacle of a country wholly given up to a deliberate misunderstanding of a straightforward issue. Two crimes have been committed, both meriting and receiving the severest condemnation. They are, however, distinct, and by no manner of sophistry can they be connected in such a way that the first shall be held to justify the second. In no responsible quarter has any attempt been made to condone or to extenuate the Janina crime or to challenge Italy's right to full reparation. The matter might well have been and ought to have been settled by Italy and Greece without recourse to the League of Nations, although Italy's ultimatum made such a solution practically impossible. Before there was time for any settlement to be reached, however, Italy herself committed the second crime, the occupation and bombardment of Corfu, an offence not so much against Greece as against the League of Nations, to whose Covenant she was a signatory. In Article X. of that Covenant she had pledged herself "to respect and preserve as against external aggression the territorial integrity and existing political independence of all members of the League." Article XV. adds: "If there should arise between members of the League any dispute likely to lead to a rupture, which is not submitted to arbitration in accordance with Article XIII., the members of the League agree that they will submit the matter to the Council." In the face of these pledges it is impossible for Italy to contend with any show of reason that the occupation of Corfu was not a violation of the Covenant and of the Treaty of Versailles of which it forms part. Nor is there any clause in the Covenant which removes from the jurisdiction of the League questions of so-called national honour. The Janina crime, if it could not be settled by the diplomacy of the countries immediately concerned, was particularly one that in regard to which the possibly slow working of the League machinery would have entailed no prejudice to Italy. The victims were beyond the reach of help; Greece, on whose soil the outrage had been committed, could not evade her measure of responsibility, and, in actual fact, made no attempt to evade it; there remained, therefore, the nice adjustment of the penalty to the crime. In such circumstances what possible justification could there be for the crime of Corfu, with its deliberate offence against all the co-signatories of the Covenant of the League of Nations?

The Italian Government affects to find in the emphasis laid upon the Corfu outrage "a bold attempt to transpose the terms of the question." It ignores the fact that of the two crimes one, as far as Europe was concerned, was immediately, to all intents and purposes, relegated into the limbo of the past by Greece's undertaking to make full reparation. Whether in acknowledgment of her responsibility Greece performs one act of reparation or another, or whether she pays Italy ten million or fifty million lire, is a matter of indifference to Europe. If, on the other hand, it should be established that the assassins were Albanians, interest would centre mainly in the effect of the discovery on the Italian Government. The second crime, however, that of Corfu, remained; not only did Italy make no sign of evacuating the island when it was apparent that Greece would not refuse to give satisfaction, but she refused also to admit guilt in regard to the murder of civilians by an unprovoked bombardment. In the matter of the original issue between Italy and Greece arising out of the Janina murders the special conditions could be made to justify reference to the Conference of Ambassadors, on whose behalf the Italian military mission was acting when it was murdered on Greek territory; but there could be no delegation of authority in upholding the sanctity of the Covenant, although in all the circumstances it will be politic, in the interests of an early return to normalcy, to accept on this point also the Ambassadors' settlement which provides for the evacuation of Corfu. Italy, we may hope, as soon as her people have recovered from the first outburst of natural indignation over the murders, will realise the logic of the stand made in Great Britain and other countries on behalf of the League, and will begin to appreciate the falseness of the position into which she was forced by the Government's action. Signor Salandra's defence before the Council of the League of Nations at Geneva was as illogical as that action had been intemperate. The sanctity of human life is no greater in a motor car than it is in an obsolete fort; and international law is as forcibly violated by the unprovoked fire of ships' guns as by the discharge of bandits' rifles.

If Italy's intentions are peaceful, the whole sorry episode can be quickly liquidated. The Conference of Ambassadors has dealt with the question of Greek responsibility for the Janina murders; it has fixed the method and measure of Greek reparation, and places on record the statement of the Italian Government that in occupying Corfu it had no other object than to obtain satisfaction for the demand that it had made to Greece. This declaration implies that Corfu is to be evacuated as soon as Greece has complied with the demands now put forward by the Conference of Ambassadors. If Signor Mussolini has any greatness in him and is possessed of statesmanship, he will in this instance see that Italy is better than her implied pledge, and he will lose no time in withdrawing the Italian troops from Corfu. All the circumstances of the Italian case against Greece and the attitude of the latter from the outset prove that the occupation was unnecessary. The unfortunate blunder of the bombardment put Italy still further in the wrong, and some whole-hearted gesture on her part is called for if Italian prestige is to be restored. The Italian Government has been guilty of a grave lapse in its breach of the Covenant of the League of Nations, and if it were to do anything now to aggravate its offence it would inevitably stir up against Italy a measure of hostility that would far outweigh any temporary advantage in the Adriatic at Greece's expense. Signor Mussolini affects to be disillusioned over the genuineness of British friendship for Italy by reason of the criticism to which the Italian action has been subjected. A friendship in which there is no scope for the exchange of honest opinion on both sides can hardly be worth having. British public opinion has regarded Italy and her Government as being on a level, morally and intellectually, with itself, and has not hesitated to judge Italian action by its own standards. We cannot believe that Signor Mussolini would seriously wish to be regarded or treated with the tolerant contempt that might be accorded to the head of a petty and backward State, for whose acts some allowance must be made.

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THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SUDAN.

From the recently published "Report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1922" we extract the chapters upon "Administrative Policy" and "Frontiers."—ED.

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY.

In giving some general indications of our policy of administrative development, last year's report stated that "our object, briefly, was to leave administration as far as possible in the hands of native authorities wherever they exist, under the supervision of the Government, starting from things as it finds them, putting its veto on what is dangerous and unjust, and supporting what is fair and equitable in the usage of the natives."

An interesting experiment on these lines is being carried out in the administration of Dar Masalit in Western Darfur, which by the ratification of the Convention of 1919 between the United Kingdom and France was finally included within the boundaries of the Sudan. Occupation of the country was gradual, with a view to establishing confidence in the new régime. A member of the Political Service was appointed Resident, and installed with a small garrison at Kereinik, on the eastern border of the Dar; later, when the local Sultan and his notables had become accustomed to our presence within his boundaries, and had had sufficient opportunity to gauge the purpose and method of our administration, a move was made to the capital Geneina.

The existing system was carefully investigated. It consisted of a supreme authority in the person of a Sultan, who ruled the country both through agents appointed personally by himself, and also through an organisation originally tribal but tending through the movement of individual families to become territorial in character. This organisation consisted of heads of sections ("farash," singular "firsha"), and heads of sub-sections ("dimâlig," singular "dimlig"), the latter being the smallest administrative unit, and controlling as many as six villages. Personal agents of the Sultan, both executive and judicial, acted independently of local chiefs, and, as might be expected, this dual system of control led to considerable confusion and irregularity both in the collection of taxes and in the administration of justice. The powers and jurisdiction of the various authorities were vague and ill-defined, with the result that the well-being of the people depended to a large extent on the character of the Sultan, who, in the present instance, though highly intelligent, is weak and irresolute.

Dar Masalit, therefore, provided virgin ground for the trial of a policy of retaining, so far as is consistent with the removal of abuses and the maintenance of a reasonable standard of efficiency, the existing administrative machinery and method. In pursuance of this policy a regular assessment of the grain crop of 1921-22 by native boards was carried out with a view to putting the collection of the grain tax on a systematic basis. This method of assessment is in common use in agricultural provinces of the Sudan. In all there were twelve boards, each consisting of two notables and a clerk. The notables were selected, in consultation with the Sultan, on the criteria of good character and intelligence only. Some were "farash," others were agents of the Sultan, and others notables holding no office, and, to inspire confidence, boards containing a "firsha" assessed the tribal area. Instructions for the boards were issued by the Resident, who, it was intended, should generally supervise the assessment. Owing, however, to the political situation at the time (referred to in my report for 1921), the work of the boards received no supervision whatever. It is therefore all the more interesting to record that, in the opinion of the Resident gained during subsequent tours, the boards as a whole displayed a very high degree of honesty. The tax as assessed has been brought in readily, and the result of this first attempt in Dar Masalit to introduce a regular assessment through native channels is distinctly encouraging.

Further, early this year, with the consent and co-operation of the Sultan, the existing judicial system was modified, defined, and regularised, and, at the same time, provision was included for the exercise of judicial powers by the Resident. Limited jurisdiction and powers of punishment in respect of certain minor offences are laid down for "farash" and "dimâlig"; the jurisdiction and powers of the kadi (the judicial representative of the Sultan) and of the Sultan are also defined. More serious offences are dealt with by minor and major courts constituted by order of the Resident, and consisting of at least three members. Powers of appeal in all cases are amply provided for, and the present system built on the existing judicial framework, appears up to the present to be in practice a successful solution of the difficulty of accommodating native customs and usage to the principles of a stereotyped penal code and procedure. This method of indirect and advisory administration appears so far satisfactory, and its future development in Dar Masalit will be watched with considerable interest.

An application of the same policy is being tried in the Southern Sudan by the establishment of chiefs' courts to deal with local cases of minor importance. In Mongalla Province, for instance, four lukiko, or chiefs' courts, now sit monthly in the Latuka district, and the innovation has proved successful.

Again, in the Upper Nile Province, the internal administration of the Shilluks is being left as much as possible in the hands of tribal chiefs under the supervision of the Mek, the District Commissioner being concerned only in cases of appeal or if he has reason to suspect any abuse of the native authority. The Governor reports that the system has been an unqualified success.

In other provinces the policy of conferring magisterial powers on suitable notables to enable them to sit as members of criminal courts is being steadily carried out. During the year excellent reports of their work have been received, and the appointment is one that is highly prized.

The training of native administrative officials through the Sub-Mamurs Training School at Khartoum shows favourable progress. Hitherto, selected candidates had held previous Government appointments, but it is interesting to note that this year,

ASK FOR
WHITE HORSE
WHISKY
BY APPOINTMENT.

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for the first time, a candidate who had had some experience as an omda was selected, somewhat as an experiment. The progress he achieved suggests the possibility of tapping a new and promising source for recruitment. In contrast to last year, when eleven candidates were finally rejected as unsuitable, only two failed to qualify for appointment to administrative posts.

Reference was made in last year's report to the constitution of a consultative and advisory municipal council for the towns of Khartoum, Khartoum North and Omdurman, among the members of which were natives of the municipal area. This institution has been a success, and the Governor reports that the attendance at all meetings has been good and the interest keen and well maintained. He remarks that, as might be expected, the bulk of discussion and debate is at present carried on by non-native members, but he is confident that with greater experience of the procedure and working of the council the native element will take an increasing share in the discussion of municipal affairs. In general, the lines of administrative policy indicated in my report of last year are being steadily followed and would appear, so far as the experience of this year can show, to be fully justified.

One further point in this connection is worthy of note. The work of native assistant medical officers will be referred to in a later chapter, but the value of medical work to administration is shown by the success which has attended the fitting out of the hospital ship "Lady Baker" on the Upper Nile. The prime factor in successful administration of the backward races in this and other provinces of the Sudan is mutual confidence between Government and governed. The popularity of the visit of this hospital ship to various localities on the Upper Nile and up the Sobat to Gambeila has proved that medical assistance is one of the quickest and surest methods of getting into touch with the local tribes. The late Lord Kitchener on his last visit to Khartoum urged the institution of a school of medicine, and the memorial to be erected to his name is very appropriately taking the form of a medical school. During the War, and for some time after, the cost of all building materials was prohibitive, and no further progress could be made with the scheme beyond selecting a site and drawing up plans. This year, however, a contract for the building was placed in March, and it is expected that it will be completed and equipped by the end of 1923. The experience already gained of the work of assistant medical officers and of the close connection between medical and administrative work indicates that the training of natives in this school will prove a distinct step forward in the administrative development of the country.

FRONTIERS.

Abyssinia.

(a.) Fung Province.—As had been anticipated in last year's report, the Abyssinian Government took further steps against the rebel chief, Fitaurari Mohammed Wad Mahmud. Sheikh Khojali-el-Hassan was despatched from Addis Abeba to secure his arrest, and with the assistance of Dejazmatch Igazu carried out the task successfully. Mohammed Wad Mahmud was sent a prisoner to the capital. A noteworthy commentary on the disturbed conditions previously existing on the Abyssinian side of the boundary is the fact that nearly 600 Abyssinians had emigrated to the Sudan prior to the arrest of Mohammed Wad Mahmud and were settled near Roseires, where they appear to be contented and well-behaved.

(b.). Mongalla Province.—The services of Major E. B. Hawkins, D.S.O., His Majesty's Consul at Maji, were unfortunately not available after May this year, and the appointment has been vacant since that date. Prior to his departure, Major Hawkins was able to effect the recall of Fitaurari Mashesha, the local Governor, who had done everything possible to obstruct any attempt to repress slave raids, elephant poaching, and cattle stealing. The hereditary Governor of the province, Dejazmatch Desta Beru, died in May, and Fitaurari Moukria Gourmami was appointed in his place. As he is reported to be an intelligent official and disposed to be friendly to Europeans, it is hoped that the excellent impression made by Major Hawkins's endeavours will bear fruit. Early in the year Major Hawkins was successful in confiscating a large consignment of ivory at Maji, which is probably used as a base by elephant poachers. There is little doubt that a policy of confiscation of stocks of ivory illegally come by will prove more successful than attempts by patrols to apprehend individual raiding parties in the Sudan. The element of surprise is essential, but almost impossible to attain, and an attempt made in June consequent on the activities of raiders in the Losinga and Lotelepay districts to capture a suspected camp on the River Lokalian bore little result. The presence of a British consul at Maji, or, failing that, the inclusion of Maji in the sphere of a neighbouring consulate, backed by the co-operation of a strong local Governor in pursuing the policy successfully initiated by Major Hawkins, would appear at present to be the only effective method of preventing these raids.

Eritrea.

A redemarcation of that part of the existing boundary lying between Jebel (hill) Dobadab and Jebel Benifier was successfully carried out and mutually agreed to by representatives of both Governments in December.

Uganda.

The operations against the Didinga Hills referred to in last year's report came to a successful conclusion in January, when all Didinga chiefs surrendered. Subsequently a small garrison was left there with Mr. J. H. Driberg, of the Uganda Civil Service, as Political Officer with headquarters at Nagichot. In May Mr. Driberg reported that the general situation was very satisfactory, and that the chiefs on whom he had called for assistance, both in labour and material, had responded with considerable alacrity. Administration proceeded smoothly until September, when a disaffected (and probably mentally deranged) petty chief, Mohamed Apendongimoi, attacked Mr. Driberg's camp, and killed two of his servants. It is significant perhaps of a desire for a more settled existence that this chief and his followers were afterwards captured and handed over to Government troops by friendlies. No other hostile incident has occurred. During the year the Uganda Government, in view of the reduction of their regular military establishment, were compelled to request this Government to assume responsibility for the future administration of the Didinga Hills, and arrangements were made for the transfer of the administration and withdrawal of Uganda troops by the end of the year. The administration of the Didinga involves the administration of the neighbouring and hitherto unadministered tribe of Taposa, who, however, do not appear to resent closer relations with Government. The administration of these tribes marks a distinct advance in the administration of Eastern Mongalla. It is early yet to say whether the effect of the recent operations will be such as to ensure the tranquillity of this

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hitherto lawless area, but for the moment the preliminary steps towards a permanent administration have been successfully carried out.

French Equatorial Africa.

Delimitation of boundary (see report for 1921). The respective Commissioners, Lieutenant-Colonel Pearson and Lieutenant-Colonel Grossard, met on the boundary at Tumtuma in January, and drew up a method of survey. While survey operations were in progress, the two Commissioners, with a view to collecting all available information, visited portions of the boundary where difficulties appeared likely to arise. The survey made remarkable progress: by the end of the year the whole of the frontier area from latitude 16 deg. to latitude 11 deg. had been mapped, and it is anticipated that the remainder of the frontier south to its junction with the Belgian Congo will be completed by March next year, nine months earlier than the date originally estimated. Efforts, however, on the part of the Commissioners to arrive at an agreed boundary at all points in accordance with the Convention of 1919 unfortunately proved unavailing. Differences of opinion arose in regard to its interpretation in certain areas, notably in the country lying between parallels 11 deg. and 9 deg., where the British Commissioner claimed that, since the geographical data on which the relevant international agreements had been drawn up had proved to be erroneous, an ethnological division should be followed in accordance with the spirit of the Convention, while the French Commissioner maintained that south of parallel 11 deg. the delimitation should be ruled by more purely geographical considerations. The settlement of this difficulty seemed not impossible. However, in two small sections of the northern section of the boundary the application of the wording of the Convention to local conditions gave rise to widely divergent views, which in spite of prolonged investigations and discussions proved irreconcilable. No other course was open, therefore, except to draw up a protocol setting forth the points of difference and agreement, and to submit individual recommendations for the settlement of those parts of the boundary in dispute. At the end of the year Colonel Pearson was on his way to a conference with Colonel Grossard with a view to effect, if possible, a compromise on the points of issue and, failing agreement, to sign the protocol, when he was unfortunately taken ill and died at Um Dafog on December 28.

Cardinal Bourne has agreed to lead a pilgrimage to Palestine next spring.

The Earl of Reading has opened an Indian fund for the relief of sufferers from the Japanese earthquake. His Excellency has headed the list with a donation of 5,000 rupees.

The Yugoslav Minister at Athens (M. Balugtchitch) has arrived at Belgrade to receive authorisation for signing the Convention respecting the Port of Salonika.

The Bulgarian Premier, M. Zankoff, states that there is no truth in the reports that the Bulgarian Government was privy to the murder of M. Dashkaloff.

An exhibition and sale of work will be held at the headquarters of the Arts of Palestine, 5, Harrington Road, South Kensington, on the 19th inst., in aid of the funds of St. George's Hospital.

Dr. Nihad Reshed Bey left Constantinople on September 5 for London and Paris in order to arrange preliminaries for future discussions on the questions of the debt coupon and the Mosul frontier.

There has now been published in the official Treaty Series (Nos. 17 and 18) Notes exchanged between the British and French Delegates at Lausanne regarding certain concessions in territories detached from Turkey, and the Agreement between the same delegations regarding Article 34 of the Lausanne Treaty (Egyptian Nationality).

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Italy, the League, and Britain.

The *Daily Telegraph* of September 10, after stating that the Ambassadors' Note to Greece marks a step towards a settlement of the Italo-Greek dispute, is careful to point out that "it does not by any means end the matter"—

> If the dispute only concerned the murder of General Tellini and his party it would in all probability be closed by the Ambassadors' Note. Unhappily, the occupation of Corfu by Italy and Signor Mussolini's specific refusal to accept the mediation of the League of Nations have given a graver turn to a most distressing episode. It would be unwise to assume, on the information as yet available, that the Ambassadors have solved this far larger problem. They have nothing to say about the League.

And over the evacuation of Corfu, it goes on to remark, nothing quite authoritative has yet been issued. But the question of Corfu must again be raised—

> Doubtless the Conference of Ambassadors, in omitting to refer to the League of Nations, felt that the League was well able to speak for itself. We do not doubt, indeed, that the Corfu question will be raised at Geneva, whether the Italian Government wishes it or not. If the Council of the League were willing to defer the matter, at the instance of the Great Powers, we may be sure that the Assembly, in which any Power, however small, has the right to make its opinions heard, would not consent to ignore the Italian action.

It cannot agree, moreover, that the Italians can conceivably be justified in flouting the League, and still hopes that "Signor Mussolini will not force such an invidious choice upon us or the other Allies"—

> If he will make it clear that the evacuation of Corfu is dependent solely on the fulfilment of the Ambassadors' conditions, and will not be delayed on any other grounds, the chief danger will be dispelled. The debates in the Assembly of the League will then assume a more or less academic character and the affair will pass into relative oblivion. The leaders of opinion in the League will, we feel sure, remember that their first duty is to seek peace and ensue it, not to exalt the League as the only means by which peace can be preserved. The immediate problem is to restore normal relations between Italy and Greece, and if the League can assist better to that end by standing aside than by intervening actively it would be well advised to adopt the humbler part.

The *Morning Post* of September 10 is concerned to show the part which Great Britain played in bringing about what promises to be a settlement:—

> In those negotiations the British Government have taken and are still taking a prominent part. They will meet, and have indeed already been assailed by, many critics. We strongly deprecate any such attacks on the Government at this moment. On the contrary, we believe that should this dangerous crisis be successfully overcome the country will not forget the part which Mr. Baldwin's administration have played in the matter. The British people are not violently perturbed about the rights of the League of Nations or the fate of the Island of Corfu. What they are anxious about is the maintenance of the peace of the

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world and the preservation of their historic friendship with Italy. To secure those two great purposes it was necessary that the sanctity of the treaties which enshrine the common victory should be observed, and that a direct clash between Italy and Great Britain should be avoided. What makes atrocious crimes such as that recently committed at Janina so baneful is the difficulties they place in the way of the working of peaceful diplomacy, and if British and Italian statesmen succeed in reaching a settlement without embittering Anglo-Italian relations they will deserve well of the public opinion of both countries.

The *Westminster Gazette* of September 7 obviously believes that the upholding of the League's authority is worth far more than the mere preservation of an Anglo-Italian alliance :—

> We hope that the withdrawal of Italy would not, in the last resort, be carried out; but we do not agree that her withdrawal would be the end of the League. Indeed, a genuine assertion of the League's authority at a time of crisis like this would, in our opinion, do far more good than Italy's temporary defection would do harm. The League ought to be far more inclusive than it is, and we hope it soon will be. But its present members, even without Italy, if they really showed themselves determined to stand together and by the Covenant, would be quite strong enough to protect themselves and to preserve the peace. On the other hand, a League that had once shown itself impotent in face of Signor Mussolini's blank denial of its authority would be useless except as a clearing-house for unimportant international business. The League, if it is anything, is an association of nations who really desire the preservation of peace and are prepared to co-operate to that end. The discussions of the last few days have at least shown how widespread is the anxiety that there should be a strong instrument of that kind, and which nations can be relied upon to support it. Whatever the outcome, this clearing of the air cannot be harmful, and it may be very useful.

The *New Age* of September 6 has an ingenious explanation of Signor Mussolini's dramatic gestures. Once more economics underlie politics :—

> Italy owes Great Britain £528,000,000. Assuming her intention to pay any part of this sum, she will have to earn it in the world market. So it is her duty to take precautions against "economic strangulation." Now, the traffic from Central Europe has the choice of three routes to the Mediterranean for the Levant and the Orient via Port Said. One of these routes is through Italy to Brindisi. Another is through Bulgaria and Turkey to Constantinople. But the shortest (in respect of sea passage) is through Serbia and Greece to Salonika. It is true that the Greek railways are in a poor condition and the trains too slow; but all that is soon remedied—it is a matter of finance. Accordingly, negotiations have been proceeding between the Greek Government and various English, French, and American capitalists for the transference or leasing of these lines, so that the Salonika-Ghevgeli railway in particular may be improved to permit of greater train speed. There is also a scheme to encourage Greek shipowners to make their service from Salonika to Port Said superior to that of the Italian fleet from Brindisi. It is hoped thus to divert the greater part of the Central European traffic with the Orient from Brindisi or from the projected ports on the Albanian coast. Now here is a threat to Italy's economic interests that will not yield to purgatives, not even if the financiers who launched Signor Mussolini on his dramatic career were to corner the world's output of croton oil. There are two alternatives open to the Prime Minister; either to create a military diversion and delay the Greek development scheme, or to discover some way of securing his country's participation with Greece in the benefits to be derived from it. Some person or persons unknown, by killing General Tellini and his colleagues on the Frontier Delimitation Commission, have provided Signor Mussolini with the excuse for adopting the first of these alternatives, and he has given a wrench to the tense nerves of European diplomacy by occupying Corfu and setting a time limit for the final settlement of the future of Fiume—and all so promptly that the world might almost believe that the massacre of the innocent commissioners had been previously revealed to him in a dream. For ourselves, we can only hope that the private gentlemen whose financial commitments and expectations on both sides are involved will continue to talk to each other in as friendly and discreet a manner as possible with the view of arriving at a settlement which the League of Nations may afterwards announce as its own judgment. Thus, for the ways of God are inscrutable, His servant General Tellini will not have died in vain, and his sorrowing family may yet live to see inscribed on his tombstone the great thing he bought with his blood—the Articles of Association of the Italio-Greek Railway Corporation, 1924, Ltd.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, *Strand, Monday Evening.*

Adriatic Crises.

The Græco-Italian crisis could not leave the financial world entirely unconcerned, but its effect on markets has not been serious. A week ago any prospect of war was already discounted, and now the certainty of a quick settlement has been established sooner than was expected. In saying this one has to take for granted that, both Italy and Greece having accepted the terms propounded by the Conference of Ambassadors, the former will honourably evacuate Corfu at an early date. It is not quite so easy to be optimistic over the threatened Fiume crisis, if there is to be one on September 15 when Italy's time-limit for the acceptance by Yugo-Slavia of her settlement of the question expires. There have been a good many alarms and excursions over this question in the last three years, and it is to be hoped that peace between the two countries concerned will still be maintained. Italy's action in regard to Corfu, however, has not been lost on the States of South-Eastern Europe. Fortunately, there are many factors working against war. Attention may here be directed to an illuminating article on the Fiume question from our Correspondent in Yugoslavia, which appears on the next page.

Trade With Persia.

Anglophobia is still a factor in the economics as well as in the politics of Persia, and it has found a fresh vent in the boycott of British goods and of trade with Irak in retaliation for the deportation of a Persian priestly agitator from the latter country. The matter, when viewed in its proper perspective, may not be a very serious one; but it is unfortunate at a time when the world is interested in seeing an early return to smoothness of working in trade matters in every direction. Britain's loss in this case is clearly Russia's gain as there has been of late a marked upward movement in Russo-Persian trade. Reports of the Baku Fair state that at the end of June the total turnover was estimated at 2.9 million gold roubles, as compared with a total turnover of 1.3 millions in 1922. The percentage of sales to Persia had risen from 5.4 of all goods sold last year to 23.4 at the end of June. It will be a great triumph for our Minister in Teheran, Sir Percy Loraine, if he is able by the weight of his own personality, to change Anglo-Persian relations in a fairly short time.

The Irak Mail Route.

As was suggested in these notes last week, the despatch of mail matter from Baghdad on August 30 by motor service across the Syrian Desert to Damascus and Haifa proves to have been in the nature of a trial trip. Before that journey the company responsible for the service had made twelve crossings of the desert without encountering any special difficulties and without mishap. On the outgoing trip from Damascus one of the passengers was the Postmaster-General of Irak, who had just completed negotiations with the French authorities in Syria, the Palestine Government, and the Palestine Railways for the transport of the mails. Arrangements, it is understood, are being made to run a train from Haifa on Sunday to connect with the P. and O. steamer leaving Port Said every Monday for Marseilles. By this means Baghdad should be brought into weekly communication with London, the transit occupying nine days. A further mail was expected to be dispatched by motor-car from Baghdad on September 13, but the regular weekly service to Baghdad from Haifa will not start until Thursday, October 11.

The Cotton Trade.

The Lancashire cotton trade has been so badly hit that it is not a matter for surprise that on all sides attempts are being made to discover some means of lifting the industry out of its slough of despond. One of the latest is to form a new central federation, to include all the existing organisations of both employers and operatives, as well as being representative of all the processes, *i.e.*, spinning, weaving, machine-making, printing, dyeing, and finishing. In other words, the new body, if it should be formed, would aim at co-ordinating every interest with a view to bringing the full weight of every section to bear upon the situation. Whether the proposal will materialise remains to be seen, but those behind it are right in the principle underlying the movement—that the industry must leave nothing undone to help itself. The cotton trade to-day is hampered by the price of cotton and working costs; the former is outside its control, the latter is not.

The Crux of "Hours."

The position in the Blackburn cotton industry is said to be worse than in most other areas. That town caters specially for the Indian trade, and at a recent meeting of the Town Council to discuss the holding of a conference on the unemployment question, the position in regard to the Indian market was lucidly explained by one speaker. In 1914, he pointed out, thousands of shirtings were made in Blackburn for sale at 7s. per piece; the price for the same cloth to-day was 15s., an increase of 115 per cent. Another cloth which before the War cost 8s. 9d. was now 19s. 6d., an increase of more than 120 per cent. On the other hand, India was receiving a price for her cereals equivalent to an increase of only 33 per cent., and, consequently,

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had not the money to buy Lancashire cloth. It is, of course, idle to preach more work on the part of the individual when there is not enough work to go round; but the vicious circle has to be broken somewhere, and the time to do it is when there seems to be a reasonable chance of an improved demand for cotton goods. The breaking of the vicious circle must take the form of the casting for all time on to the scrap-heap of false doctrines the Labour theory that shorter hours for the individual worker provides work for more people. In the long run it has the opposite effect, as it inevitably restricts trade by the addition to working costs. There are many who feel confident that this problem of working costs, unless promptly grappled with, will end in losing the Indian market for British cotton goods.

COMMENTATOR.

THE FIUME QUESTION.

(From Our Correspondent in Yugoslavia.)

A little while ago the Chambers of Commerce and export traders of all Yugoslavia met in conference at Belgrade. At this conference, which was attended by the country's best authorities on trade and industry, it was computed that for the year from September 1, 1923, to August 31, 1924, Yugoslavia has over 6,000 million dinars' worth of goods for export, chiefly agricultural produce, live stock, meat, fruit, timber, coal, eggs, and raw material. The inclusion of wine and spirits in this list would bring the export figure up to something well over 8 milliard dinars. Yet this year's harvest is not specially good, and reconstruction work in Serbia is far from being completed. Hence, in normal times—and Yugoslavia is visibly getting nearer to normal conditions—a far greater export would have to be reckoned with. This is also obvious from the fact that to-day the total export of all Yugoslavia, calculated in gold value, amounts to scarcely one-tenth of what Serbia alone exported before the War. (It must not be forgotten that in those days Serbia enjoyed the right of free export via Salonika, and conditions for export down the Danube were better than they are to-day.)

Yet, with all these goods for export on her hands, Yugoslavia has not one proper harbour. True, Cattaro is one of the best and largest natural harbours in the world. But there is no railway to Cattaro. The same drawback applies also to Split (Spalato) and other Dalmatian harbours. The Yugoslav zone in Salonika is still awaiting settlement, and so Yugoslavia is left with Bakar, where the harbour is quite small and half an hour distant from the nearest railway station, so that all goods have to be reloaded twice, from the ship on to carts and from carts on to the train; and owing to the steepness of the road, a great many carts are required.

All this must be borne in mind in order to understand the Fiume question properly. The ideal port for Yugoslavia, as well as for the lands to the north of her, is Fiume, which before the War was developing into a successful rival of Trieste. All the conditions for successful commerce are present in Fiume. On the other hand, there can be no commerce at all, unless the latter is furthered by Yugoslavia.

This has been proved up to the hilt during the years of the Italian occupation. Grass grows on the quays that used to hum with life and work; all Fiume languishes. Once wealthy merchants try to make both ends meet by selling off their furniture and valuables, and no one in Fiume is satisfied except the ten thousand Italians from the kingdom who are in the pay and service of the Italian Government. That this picture is not overdrawn is shown very clearly by the attitude of the Fiuman Autonomist, or Zanella, Party. Though altogether Italian in sentiment, these old-established Fiumans, who originally hailed the Italian flag with rapture, will have nothing to say to an Italian Fiume. They do not want annexation. They realise that Fiume cannot live without Yugoslavia, and so they demand that the town be in deed (not only in name) a Free State, in a position to maintain friendly relations with Italy and Yugoslavia alike. In other words, the Fiume question must be solved on economical, and not on national political lines.

This was apparently achieved by the Treaty of Rapallo. Doubtless, by this Treaty Italian influence would be predominant in Fiume; but, on the other hand, Count Sforza's Supplementary Letter gave the port of Barosh and the Delta to Yugoslavia, thus ensuring that Yugoslavia should maintain her connection with Fiume and have an interest in preventing its economic decay.

If we furthermore consider that Italy preferred no claim to Fiume at the time of the Pact of London in 1915, and that the Wilson Line gave Fiume to Yugoslavia, we must admit that Yugoslavia is by no means intransigent in contenting herself with Barosh and the Delta.

When Signor Mussolini established the Fascist dictatorship in Italy everybody hoped that the evacuation of the third zone in Dalmatia would be followed by a settlement of the Fiume question. But, unfortunately, this has not come about. The present dispute in the Parity Commission in Rome in regard to Fiume is, in fact, solely over the wise Supplementary Letter of Count Sforza. Not content with Fiume, Italy is demanding Barosh and the Delta into the bargain. To this Yugoslavia cannot agree, as by such a settlement she would lose all and gain nothing.

That is the position of the Fiume question to-day. For the moment Italy has the best of it; but, in the near future she will realise that in ousting Yugoslavia altogether from Fiume she made a mistake, and that, first of all, from an economic point of view. For, if Yugoslavia is deprived of her interest in Fiume, she will simply turn elsewhere for a port, because without a port Yugoslavia cannot live. Already Mr. Davis is hard at work upon the enlargement of the harbour of Bakar, and the railway connection between the harbour and the station is also under construction. The Croatian paper *Jugoslavenski Lloyd* frankly commends that Yugoslavia should leave Fiume to economic death and develop her own harbours instead. And that is what is being done. The Dalmatian line will shortly be completed; only eight kilometres separate Split from Croatia. Plans are being made for enlarging the once world-famous harbour of Dubrovnik (Ragusa), and the construction of the great Belgrade-Cattaro line is seriously contemplated

The first consequence of Italy's policy will be that Yugoslavia will get on her own feet, whereas Italy will be left with a dead Fiume.

But in the field of politics the consequences for Italy will be even worse. An economic agreement over the Fiume question could give rise to good neighbourly relations between Italy and Yugoslavia. Italy might secure a good customer for her industrial output and obtain her raw material cheap from Yugoslavia in exchange. But the loss of Fiume will so aggravate national hostility in Yugoslavia that in the end Italy will lose the Yugoslav market for good and all. But whoever provides Yugoslavia with a door into the world will in return be master of the Yugoslav trade. And instead of a profitable friend Italy will have an embittered foe, and one who is no novice in the use of arms. Whether in view of Italy's policy of expansion this is of consequence or not, is not for us to decide.

In the interest of peace in Europe it is in any case to be regretted that Italy herself should regard Count Sforza's letter as insufficient, and that she is thereby making it next door to impossible for the Yugoslavs to get over the Treaty of Rapallo, which is throughout Yugoslavia regarded as the Canossa of Yugoslav diplomacy.

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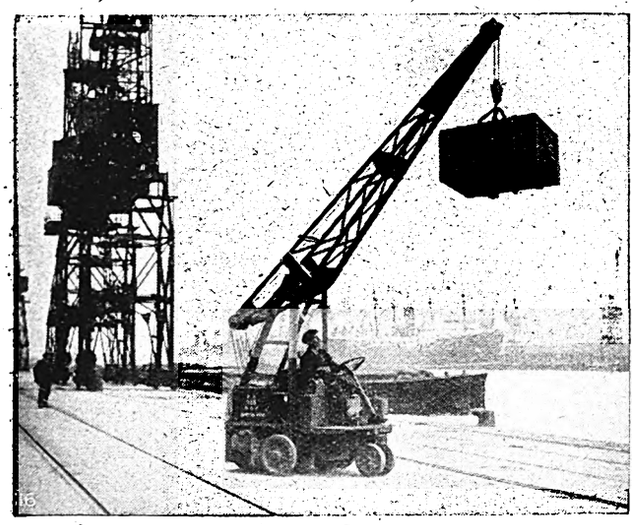
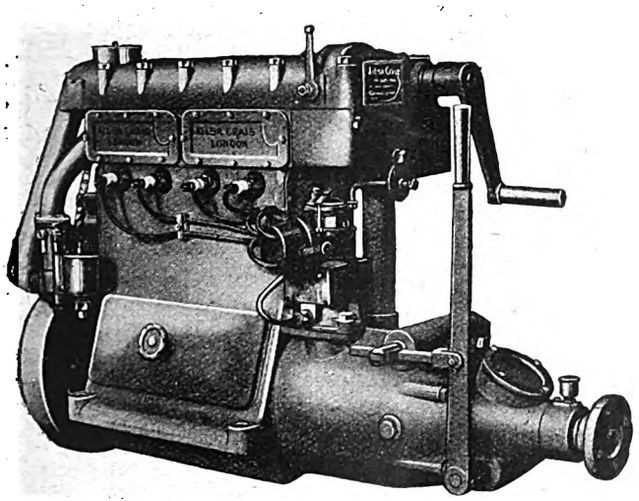
THE SHIPPING EXHIBITION (*Continued*).

Messrs. Ransomes, Sims and Jefferies, Ltd., exhibit a 15-cwt. model of their patent runabout electric crane. This handy little crane, which is constructed on an entirely new principle, will travel, turn, hoist, and derrick under its own power, and will turn about its own centre like a turntable, the source of power being a battery of electric accumulators. The wheel system is so constructed that the crane will adapt itself to moderately uneven ground without detriment to its operation, and it



Ransome Electric Runabout Crane.

will negotiate and operate on gradients up to 1 in 10. The model exhibited will pass through a doorway 10 ft. in height and 5 ft. 4 ins. in width. This firm also exhibit two models of their "Orwell" electric industrial trucks. Both models are fitted with large trailing wheels, and are of special value for use in places where the ground to be traversed is rough, and obstructions are frequently met with. One model is fitted with an elevating platform, a feature which renders possible a great reduction in the time during which the

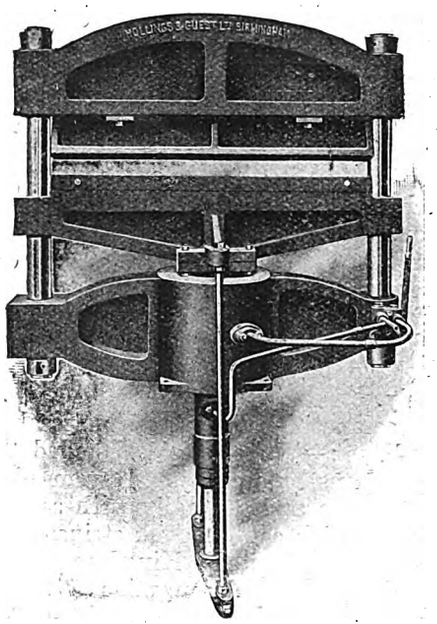


Kid Marine Motor.

truck is kept standing idle for loading purposes. In addition, two sizes of the firm's electric motors are shown.

The stand of Messrs. the Ailsa Craig Motor Co., Ltd., is of special interest. The exhibits include a fast runabout launch fitted with the Ailsa Craig Kid four-cylinder marine motor, giving a speed of 14 miles per hour, and a standard work boat, fitted with the Ailsa Craig Kid Junior 6-8 h.p. marine motor, and having a speed of 8 miles per hour. The range of engines includes the Ailsa Craig Kid 10-14 h.p. four-cylinder marine motor and the Kid Junior of 6-8 h.p., together with larger models of $3\frac{1}{2}$-in. bore and $4\frac{3}{4}$-in. stroke. They are built in four-cylinder and six-cylinder models, developing 20-24 and 28-36 h.p. respectively.

Another notable stand is that of Messrs. Hollings and Guest, Ltd., who show a hydraulic tyre press for removing and fixing the solid rubber tyres of commercial vehicle wheels. A special feature is that the press is fitted with an open slot in the head, so that tyres can be fitted to or removed from wheels without taking the wheel from the axle. This type of press is capable of dealing with the largest and heaviest makes of tyres, and will give a pressure of 200 tons. Another interesting exhibit is a bending press for bending plates cold up to 6 ft. in width, as used for making safe bodies, tanks, conveyors, colliery tubs, and similar work. The press has a swinging column at one end, so that when a complete body or shape has been pressed, the column can be swung out, and the finished shape slipped from the end of the press head. The firm also show a hydraulic scrap metal bundling



Hollings and Guest Hydraulic Bending Press.

press. The press consists of a rectangular cast-iron box 27 in. x 15 in. x 30 in. deep with hinged cover. The hydraulic ram is arranged underneath this box, with a table which fits closely inside the box. The whole apparatus is let into the ground so as to bring the top of the box to a convenient height for throwing in the material. The box is filled with old tins and other material to be dealt with. The lid is then swung over, and the pressure turned on by the valve. As soon as the maximum pressure is reached, as shown by the pressure gauge, the operator releases the valve and swings off the cover, and the ram ejects the bale from the press. For the purpose of driving these machines a set of 2-throw hydraulic pumps is supplied. These pumps consist of a vertical 2-throw hydraulic pump, built up on a cast-iron bedplate, and driven by chain gears direct from an electric motor.

The Marconi Co. has proposed to the Greek Government that it should instal a private wireless service in Greece.

A new Russian bank is to be opened at Teheran. The Soviet Government holds 55 per cent. of the shares.

A new company, called "Abyssinian Plantations," has been formed in Brussels for a term of thirty years, from July 12, 1923, with the object of exploiting plantations in Abyssinia by the growth, culture, preparation of, and trade in vegetable products. The capital of the company is 1,500,000 francs in 3,000 shares of 500 francs each.

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British Consular Reports.

VII.—EGYPT (*Continued*).

Competition.

The decline of £E6¾ millions in imports from the United States of America is so conspicuous that it may be of interest to analyse its principal items. Coal, wheat, and wheat flour account for over 4¼ millions between them; maize and maize flour contribute a further million and more; locomotives another half million; kerosene and fuel oil over £E400,000; while timber, railway sleepers, and caseboards are responsible for about half the last amount between them.

It is now possible, for the first time since the inauguration on July 1, 1920, of the special tariff applicable to cotton piece goods which fall under any of the five categories grey, bleached, printed, dyed in the piece, and dyed in the yarn, to compare its effects on imports for two complete calendar years. Statistics of the total value and number of square metres of piece goods under each of the five categories imported by the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Italy, Japan, and the United States of America show that the United Kingdom's nearest rival in 1922 (as in previous years) was Italy, the increase both in quantity and value of whose imports of "dyed in the piece," and "dyed in the yarn" was proportionately much greater than that in the case of the United Kingdom, and whose imports of "printed" increased both in quantity and value as against a decrease in both from the United Kingdom. Further, in spite of an increased total quantity of piece goods from the United Kingdom, the total value has slightly decreased, whereas Italy's totals of value and quantity have increased by 40 and 33 per cent. respectively.

Italian competition has been noticeable in the following lines:—Woven plaid (labelled "Scotch" by Italian firms) manufactured from cheap yarn dyed in the yarn and generally with a raised back, and some of which contains silk stripes; this article competes with United Kingdom flannelettes. Besides this, one should mention 54-inch sateens dyed in the piece, creponettes, prints, fancy dyed brocades, striped voiles with artificial silk worked in, woven stripe reps, crepe stripes, cotton trouserings, 54-in. heavy Imperial coatings, muslins and furnishings, while cotton upholstering fabric from Italy alone appears to have a good sale in Egypt, as United Kingdom products thereof do not compete.

France has imported a certain quantity of velvets, silk cloth, and cotton crimps, but though her imports of prints have increased, those under the other four categories show a considerable falling-off. American plain imitation voile (mercerised plain cloth of quite presentable appearance), cabots, and imitation embroidered voiles known as Normandy fabric, also quite attractive, have had some sale in the Egyptian market, but other lines, such as printed organdie, and coarse plain cloth, do not appear to have met with much success.

Italian and French imports of some lines of woollen goods such as in particular low cross-bred serges and lower qualities of botany serges, have increased appreciably both in quantity and value, but do not as yet constitute a serious challenge to British supremacy in woollen textiles generally.

The value of cotton hosiery from Japan has fallen off by about 12 per cent., whereas German imports have risen, as a result of a nearly three-fold increase, from third place in 1921 (when she was only slightly ahead of the United Kingdom and Spain) to first place in 1922; while Japan has fallen to a good second from being easily first in 1921. The increase in German imports is, however, not so surprising in view of the depreciation during 1922 of the prices of the fine qualities of Egyptian cotton which would be required for the manufacture of these goods.

The virtually unchallenged supremacy of Syria in imports of mixed textiles, mainly of cotton for wearing apparel both in 1921 and 1922 is worthy of notice in view of the fact that their value has increased from £E48,000 to £E136,000, the corresponding weights in kilogrammes being 27,000 and nearly 77,000. Although these articles are made of silk and cotton, and specially manufactured in Syria for Oriental wearing apparel, it would appear to be worth the while of United Kingdom manufacturers to study the possibilities of meeting the increasing demand for this particular line in Egypt.

A striking instance of the abnormal advantage enjoyed by low currency countries is afforded by a comparison between the prices of neckties of Austrian and British manufacture. Austrian neckties, of better quality than the British article, can be purchased in Cairo, from the travelling representative of Austrian firms, at the equivalent of 2s. 8d. per dozen, as against 27s. 6d. a dozen for the same style of article ruling in London. It is also of interest to note that the broader ends of the Austrian necktie are a consideration for summer wear in Egypt, where waistcoats are seldom worn, while salesmen claim that its brighter colours and heavier texture also help it to compete so successfully with the British article. It is not, therefore, surprising that United Kingdom imports have fallen 50 per cent. while those of Austria have increased sixfold.

Egypt's total annual consumption of cement for the years 1919-1922 is estimated at 33,000, 66,000, 89,000 and 113,000 metric tons respectively, of which 25,000 tons in 1919 and 1920 and 50,000 tons in 1921 and 1922 were produced locally by the Massara "Portland" cement factory. For 1923, however, the total consumption is estimated at 150,000, of which 100,000 will have to be imported. Of the 63,000 tons imported in 1922 the bulk, viz. 38,000, came from Dalmatia, whose success as compared with British and Belgian imports is purely a matter of price, the c.i.f. Alexandria quotation being P.T. 220 for Dalmatian, as against 240 for Belgian and 280 to 290 for British. To these prices must be added about P.T. 40 for clearance charges in order to compare them with the Massara factory's quotations, which are for delivery at Alexandria, lower both than those of any imported cement, and than those for Massara cement ex-works near Cairo. As regards foreign cement, it should be noted that, although Dalmatian imports have increased from 23,000 metric tons in 1921 to 38,000 in 1922, Belgian imports have risen from 5,360 to 11,440, whereas British cement has only increased from 6,300 to 7,200 tons, and it is understood that Dalmatian imports will tend to decrease, but Belgian to increase still further in view of its superior quality over Dalmatian, and its price being lower than British. It is important to note in this connection that importers prefer British cement to all others because of its superior quality, and would buy it instead of Belgian if the difference in price between the two were only 2s. a ton instead of 8s. to 10s. as at present. In view of Egypt's increasing demand for cement in 1923, and possibly in subsequent years, owing to the house shortage and building activity so much in evidence in Cairo and Alexandria, it would seem to be worth the while of British manufacturers (whose cement is largely dependent for its sale in Egypt on the insistence by certain public authorities

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on the use of British "Portland") to study the possibilities of making the necessary reduction in their prices with the object of capturing the entire foreign supply of cement for private consumption, which will probably otherwise eventually become a virtual monopoly for Belgium.

1922 has been a light car year as the result, primarily, of wholesale conversion of Fiat and Chevrolet four and five-seaters, respectively, into taxicabs, particularly in Cairo, where the number licensed in 1921, viz., 308, increased to 612 in 1922; while in Alexandria the number rose from 234 to 383. The success of the light Fiat, in particular, and the consequent increased imports from Italy has been due chiefly to the fact that most of the taxicab companies are Italian, who have purchased the cars from the agents at what might be termed "wholesale" prices for a certain number but partly to their much greater handiness and reliability in the ill-regulated and heterogeneous traffic of this country, and their more economical petrol consumption than, for example, Chevrolet light five-seater cabs, which has recommended them in increasing numbers to private owner-drivers, particularly in the case of two-seaters now obtainable at £E. 360.

American imports, consisting chiefly of Fords and Chevrolets, and to a lesser degree of Buicks and Maxwells (which latter do not seem to appeal to local tastes), have doubled in numbers, whereas French deliveries have decreased considerably, although the popularity of a small yellow two-seater Citroën bids fair to improve the position of French imports during 1923. British light cars are, comparatively speaking, conspicuous by their absence.

THE LIUBLIANA SAMPLES FAIR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Third Liubliana Samples Fair was opened on September 1, under the patronage of the King. Whoever saw the first Liubliana Samples Fair in 1921 and now visits the third has ample opportunity of judging what great progress Yugoslavia's young industry has made in these two years. The iron and steel industry, which was only in its (very creditable) beginnings then, has developed surprisingly in spite of financial difficulties. Several articles were decidedly better than the German goods in the same line, not only as regards usefulness, but also in the matter of finish. In the textile industry, which was practically non-existent two years ago, one noticed the excellent products of at least three native factories. The goods were of sound quality and in good taste as well. The number of exhibitors has grown from 534 to 776; 173 foreign firms were represented. For the first time, moreover, we had the opportunity of seeing British goods in evidence at a Yugoslav Samples Fair. There were textile goods, motor cars, bicycles, and liqueur (rum). Great interest was shown in the British exhibits, and it is to be hoped that the exhibitors will find themselves well repaid for their trouble.

Steaua Romana (British) learns that the approximate fields' gross production of oil of the Steaua Romana Co. (Bucharest) for August was 19,000 tons.

According to a telegram received by the Indians Overseas Association the Council of the National Liberal Federation of India has passed resolutions expressing acute dissatisfaction at the Kenya decision, and urging that the Indian Government should adopt every effective retaliatory measure, with an "adequate import duty on South African coal."

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

PIRACY IN THE BLACK SEA.

A Reuter message from Sofia reports that the Amon, a Bulgarian sailing vessel, which left Varna for Constantinople on August 24 with a cargo of petrol, was attacked when some miles out at sea by pirates, also in sailing vessels, from the coast of Asia Minor. The pirates climbed on the Amon, and, after tying the crew to the mast, tortured them in order to make them divulge the whereabouts of any valuables on board. The pirates then set fire to the ship, and escaped with the spoil, which included £T28,000 in gold. The petrol exploded in the Amon and the vessel foundered. Only one member of the crew escaped and swam to land.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 26).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maihar for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 20); s.s. Malakand for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22); s.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, September 26).

British India Line.—S.s. Modasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, September 28); s.s. Manela for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 29); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 12).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Cumming for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Valencia (Birkenhead, September 20); s.s. City of London (Birkenhead, September 29).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Tasso for Malta and Alexandria (London, September 19); s.s. Castilian for Malta and Alexandria (London, October 10).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout for Greek, Levant, and Black Sea ports (Liverpool, September 22).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Flaminian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Morea for Bombay (London, September 21); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, September 22).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 26); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

A Swiss bank has been established in Roumania under the name "Swiss Deposit Bank in Roumania" with a joint-stock capital of 100,000,000 lei, of which at present only 30,000,000 will be issued. Several Swiss banks are interested in this Roumanian institution.

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AGRICULTURE IN IRAK.

The following extracts are from the Monthly Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the month ending July 15 :—

During the calendar month of June the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures recorded at Hinaidi, near Baghdad, were 105·3°F and 75·3°F as compared with averages in Baghdad of 104·3°F and 76·0°F respectively for the previous 35 years. The highest maximum temperature during the month was 114·8°F recorded on the 27th and 28th June, 1923. The relative humidity was 31% as compared with a recorded average of 36%. A slight shower of rain, measuring ·02″, fell in Baghdad on the 2nd June, 1923.

The strong "Shamal" winds which set in early in June necessitated more frequent irrigation of all crops.

Stock generally is in fairly good condition. Large flocks of sheep are now congregating on the riverain and irrigated areas.

Water for irrigation is reported to be ample on most canals except those of the Dialah, where there has been unusual delay in constructing the temporary earthen dam across the river. Arrangements are in train to close the Sirriyah breach in the Euphrates near Fellujah. It is feared that most canals downstream of the breach will suffer from a shortage of water as the river continues to fall. The heavy floods have been favourable to rice cultivation in the Shamiyah and Amarah areas.

"Halawi" dates on left bank of Shatt al Arab and at Hatha show promise of good yield. At Abul Khasib the yield is likely to be well below the average, but the quality is expected to be good. "Khadrawi" dates continue to promise well. "Sayer" dates reported to be about 40 per cent. below last year's yield in Abul Khasib area. In Saliyeh, Hatha and Qurnah areas fair average yield of this variety is anticipated. The falling of immature dates is being investigated by the Entomological staff.

Except for about 500 acres destroyed by flood on the Saklawiyah, and 230 acres in the Dialah area and on the estate of the Mosul Farms Company, Ltd., the cotton crop in general is in good condition. The "spotted bollworm" is common in all cotton fields; the attack of this pest is reported to be earlier than usual. An agricultural officer has been stationed at Hillah mainly in the interests of cotton development. The measurement of all cotton fields is nearing completion.

Proposals have been submitted to combat locusts next year. The measures to be adopted must be comprehensive before they can be expected to effect a material amount of protection to cultivated crops.

The reeling of silk by departmental officials is in progress, and orders have been placed in Europe for 450 packets of silk worm eggs for next season.

The question of the high price of oil for fuel in oil engines has again been raised by pump owners. The cultivation of wheat and barley at present prices by lift irrigation is not economical. Near Baghdad 139 pump-owners are growing cotton this year as compared with 31 last year. Cotton is likely to prove an important factor in the development of pump irrigated lands. Owing to the relatively high price of oil fuel and in anticipation of cotton seed being a drug on the market in the near future a gas producer plant, using cotton seed as fuel, has been erected at the Government Farm, Baghdad, for pumping water. Except for minor adjustments it works satisfactorily.

The wool trade is unusually brisk. The wheat and barley crop is receiving the attention of a large number of exporting houses. The total exports of 1922 crop of cereals up to the end of May was 186,000 tons. The 1923 crop has started moving.

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Paid-up - £5,000,000
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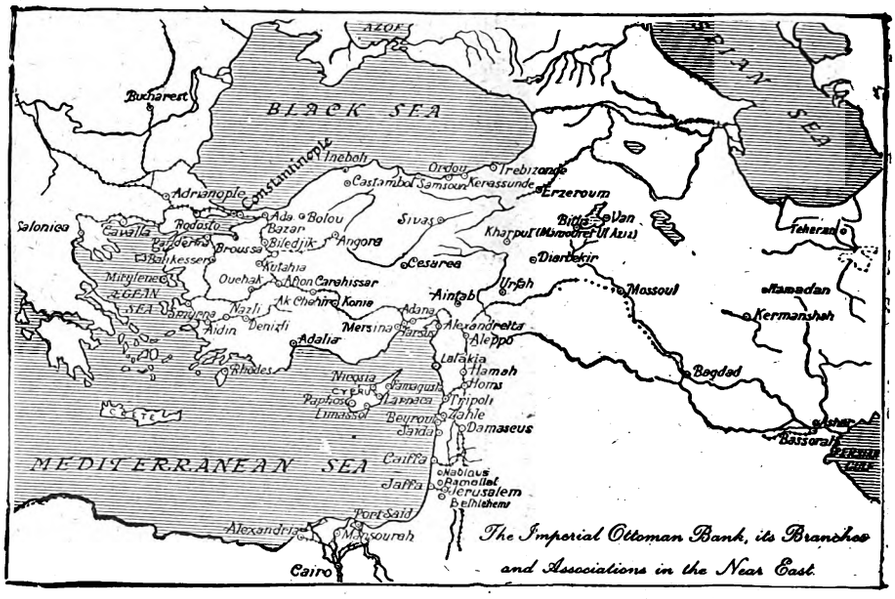

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative).

Light Railway Construction.

In few regions is the question of the improvement of communications of greater importance than in the Near East, as that territory contains so many areas still on the threshold of development, and the *sine quâ non* for any considerable economic advance is the provision of ready means of transport. Unfortunately, the circumstances of the last decade have added immeasurably to the difficulties of the improvement of communications. Before the War railway construction on the existing lines would have been the solution of the problem. Capital was not too difficult to obtain for such a venture, as there was a reasonable certainty of a fair return in the fullness of time. Unfortunately, it is no longer a matter that can be so simply solved. There is, for one thing, no comparison between the cost of construction in 1914 and the cost to-day, which means, of course, that, unless a greater revenue is to be obtained, the anticipated return must be greatly reduced. But is there any prospect of such an eventuality? All the evidence goes to show that not only must this question be answered in the negative, but that a lesser revenue must be looked for, if railways are run on the old lines. The reason for this is briefly the motor. Epoch-making inventions almost invariably make their appearance without their real significance being realised, and right up to 1914 it is extremely doubtful whether there was any general appreciation of what the motor was destined to become. We in this country know now since, as the result of developments in the last few years, what may be termed the motor age has been precipitated upon us. If it has made a vast difference to life in this country, whether as a means of ready travel or as a development which has made the existence of the foot passenger almost unendurable, it has had consequences scarcely less important in the Near East, and promises, indeed, to make an enormous difference to that region. Motor services are, comparatively speaking, easy to arrange, and points can be linked up that no railway would ever connect—we do not need to look outside this country to find examples of that—and where any extensive use is made of the motor in the Near East railways may expect to suffer. An illuminating sidelight on this is to be found in the speech of the chairman of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways at the general meeting of that company held not very long ago. He pointed out that the passenger traffic of the railway was suffering owing to the competition of motor-cars. It was difficult, he added, for the railway to compete with the low rates of the motor services, and in order to provide a more frequent and economical service and to reduce the fares to the necessary level steps were being taken to introduce light rail motor coaches capable of accommodating 30 to 40 passengers.

No one questions the necessity of railways any more than the utility of the motor. The railway is, and will remain, the indispensable means of transport, no matter what developments take place in regard to other means of locomotion. That being admitted, it will be evident that a serious position would be created, if conditions rendered impossible the adequate development of railways in the Near East; for that region will require in due course a very large extension of existing lines. The problem is one that must be solved; and it would seem that the solution consists in the adaptation of new methods in certain districts to the railway. A system known as the Roadrail system of traction has been introduced, and is now in successful operation in Uganda and elsewhere, which promises to solve effectually the question of railway construction. The principle of the system is to obtain the maximum tractive force of the engine or tractor while at the same time retaining the low tractive resistance of the load. The driving wheels of the engine or tractor run on a specially prepared road-like surface, while the carrying wheels run on the rails, the effect of this being that it is possible to use a lighter section of rails. It is claimed for this system that it combines the advantages of the light railway and the motor at a lower initial cost of construction and equipment and a more economical cost of operation. A comparison of the cost of the construction of a light railway and of a road railway brings out very clearly its advantages. A light railway of 3 ft. gauge, a considerable part of which was laid on a public road, cost £3,333 per mile to construct. It is estimated that the cost of a road railway in similar conditions would be about £1,250.

Further railway construction would meet only part of the problem, for provided the roads are passable a motor has no limits to its operations, and it is obvious that the potential field of this means of communication could never be covered adequately by light railway construction. There are, however, other possibilities. In these columns some weeks ago I discussed the introduction of a new appliance known as the "Motorailer," which enables motor vehicles to be run on the railways as well as on the roads. The utilisation of this device might help to make railways indifferent to motor-car competition, while there is, finally, the possibility of railways operating their own motor services. There is wide scope for the extension of communications in the Near and Middle East, and whether it be by railway, motor-car or caterpillar tractors, the thing to aim at is the opening up of fresh routes, and to this end there should be room for all comers.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 5:—

Egyptian Futures.—During the week under review business in Egyptian futures has been on quite a limited scale only, such orders as were received being comparatively of small weight and requiring much patience to execute owing to the almost total lack of speculative interest shown in the market at present. Friday, on which day the Government report of the American crop condition was issued, was by far the best session of the week for trading. Continental buying orders appeared, and these gradually absorbed a fair quantity of Novembers which had been on offer at 16d. for some days previously. Once these were exhausted, further offerings were scarce, and the market advanced steadily another farthing, November eventually touching 16.27d., on which level hedge selling made an appearance. Later in the week Continental profit-taking ensued, and the market fell away again, finally rallying in the neighbourhood of 16d. for November delivery. We do not look for any material change in the immediate future.

Egyptian Spot.—Pending the issue of last Friday's Bureau report, all markets adopted a waiting policy more or less, with the result that a considerable falling off occurred in the inquiry for spot cotton at the beginning of the week. The unexpectedly "bullish" nature of the report, however, provided a useful stimulus, and a fair demand was at once in evidence again, but was held in check unfortunately by the sudden political crisis which occurred on the Continent. Nevertheless, during the last day or two the demand has shown signs of broadening out, and it seems not improbable that buying may become more general as the month progresses, provided, of course, that no more shocks are received calculated to displace confidence in the general situation. On September 1 our market was opened officially on a Saturday for the first time in eight years, and although no spinners made their appearance, a fair amount of buying of spot cotton took place over the telephone, thanks chiefly to the Bureau report of the night before. The week's inquiry may be summarised briefly under four headings:—Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis at about 90 points on November contracts. Good Sakellaridis at about 200 on November. Fully Good Fair Uppers at about 16½d.-16⅝d., and Low cotton at 8d. to 12d. The bulk of the business has taken place, as usual, in the first-named quality, the basis for which has again hardened. Signs of scarcity are apparent, and likely lots are much sought after. Sakel cotton below Fully Good Fair is practically non-existent. Uppers are very scarce, and are readily saleable at the price mentioned. The demand for Low cotton is persistent, but not very fruitful. In Sudan cottons a fair business has taken place, some 600 bales changing hands. Forwardings to spinners for week ending 31st ult. were returned as 6,214 bales. Estimated sales, 3,300 bales. Quotations of Sakels are raised 25 points, those of Brown and Uppers ten points on the week. Fully Good Fair Sakel to-day, 16.80d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

A Better Tone.

The "Manchester Cotton Trade Review" of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 8 states:—

The somewhat better tone referred to in our last report has persisted during the present week, although it is difficult to find any substantial basis to justify it other than the last American Agricultural Bureau Report which has, in the opinion of most people, indefinitely postponed the prospects for cheaper raw cotton. As we anticipated, the latter has been a strong market throughout the week.

Yarn.—Following the increase in the price of raw material, quotations for yarn, whilst still irregular, have been advanced by approximately 1d. per lb. on last week. In these circumstances business has naturally continued to be difficult to negotiate. There is no noticeable improvement of demand for American spinnings.

Cloth.—There has again been a fair enquiry and in certain lines, noticeably Dhooties for Calcutta, rather better business has been done, although generally speaking the market remains in a very weak condition. A little more business has been done for China and also for Egypt, but as a rule merchants are operating with great caution all round.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, a firm market has been experienced following the Bureau report. A sharp rise took place on Saturday last followed by small declines on the succeeding three business days, whilst on Thursday and Friday there was again a considerable advance. Much interest is shown in the possible course of prices during the next few months. If growers put large quantities on the market at an early date in order to raise funds, there may be a temporary fall, but the opinion generally held appears to be that raw cotton will be dearer before the end of the present season. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 16.22; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 17.05.

THE PLIGHT OF THE COTTON TRADE

In an article in the September issue of the *Nineteenth Century*, Sir Charles Macara, chairman of the Provisional Emergency Cotton Committee, writes as follows on the causes of the present condition of the cotton trade:—

The real causes of the present depression are, first of all, that the cotton industry has been built up largely on overseas trade. England, as already stated, has not only to import the whole of her raw cotton, but after spinning and manufacturing it she has to depend on overseas outlets for over three-quarters of her trade. Thus it is that, while other cotton-manufacturing countries make chiefly for their own requirements, England is dependent on settled and prosperous conditions abroad for taking off four-fifths of her production, and therefore has been singularly unfortunate since the war. India, our best customer, not only found herself with high-priced goods bought at the top of the boom which she has had great difficulty in disposing of, but she has been unable to sell her own products in Europe owing to the war conditions which still prevail; China, our next best customer, has been afraid to give out orders owing to civil war conditions in the interior of the country; Turkey, another great consumer of cotton goods, has until now been in a state of war with the Allies for nine years and has been unable to trade freely; and Germany, Russia, and other countries have been in a state of turmoil and have had no chance of doing business on the old lines. Add to this the fact that cotton has been scarce and at a fabulous price, and even now costs nearly twice as much as in pre-war days, and one can understand the difficulties with which the staple trade of Lancashire has been faced.

But on the top of all this there has been a domestic problem which has made things more difficult still, and which, if not solved quickly, threatens to bring the whole industry to ruin. I allude to the senseless competition which has been going on for the past three years among home producers. Instead of facing the situation boldly and refusing to work at a loss, a policy has been adopted of making more goods than demand justified, with the inevitable consequence that forced sales have followed and weak sellers have made it impossible for anything like a fair market price to be maintained. In this way many millions of capital have been squandered, and shareholders, instead of receiving a fair return for the money invested, have, in addition to losing dividends, incurred heavy and increasing losses of capital. Naturally, such a policy has been made the most of by buyers of yarn and cloth, and trade, instead of being encouraged to develop on stable lines, has been restricted to a hand-to-mouth minimum.

COTTON IN ITALIAN SOMALILAND.

According to the Milan correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* the cotton-growing experiment in Italian Somaliland having proved a complete success last year, the area under cultivation has this year been increased. Egyptian cotton of the Sakellaridis type is now being grown on an area of 1,075 hectares, as against 480 last year, and the crop is estimated at 4,000 quintals (400 tons), as against 2,594 quintals (260 tons) last year. The ginning and baling plant has been supplied by Lancashire firms.

An exhibition of cloth, glass, chemicals, and other goods is being sent by the Soviet Government to Persia with Persian placards and catalogues.

Messrs. Cammell, Laird, and Co., Limited, of Nottingham, have received an order from the Great Indian Peninsular Railway for the supply of seventy-seven motor and trailer coaches. This stock is required by the railway company in connection with their scheme for the electrification of the Bombay suburban lines. The new coaches will be similar in design to those recently constructed by Messrs. Cammell, Laird for the same railway.

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THE SMYRNA SULTANA MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending August 25 :—

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are put at 1,670 tons, as compared with 2,800 tons in 1922, and sales to date are estimated at 1,350 tons, as compared with 2,250 tons at this time last year. Total shipments to the United Kingdom to date are estimated at 345 tons (970), to the Continent 40 tons (0), and to the United States, Canada, and "Sundries" 210 tons (120), the figures in brackets being the corresponding totals last year.

Business attained progressively more activity through the week, purchases reaching the maximum at the close, when about 25,000 boxes were taken up on Saturday. Prices in local currency are firmer, in spite of weaker exchanges, thus increasing quotation in foreign currencies to some extent. Arrivals are coming to market slowly, owing to transport difficulties. At present level of prices, which may be regarded as low in relation to currants and other growths, demand is developing on broader lines, and with the probability of no great rush in arrivals, the reaction in prices this week is likely to be maintained or even to become more marked. The course of exchanges, always an unknown factor, will have considerable bearing on foreign quotations.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

The Chartered Bank of India.

At a meeting of the court of directors of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China, held on September 5, it was decided to declare an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 last, at the rate of 14 per cent. per annum, free of income-tax, payable on and after September 12. The dividend a year ago was at the same rate.

Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co.

The directors of Sir W. G. Armstrong, Whitworth and Co. have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 6d. per share (2½ per cent.), less tax, the same as was distributed at this time last year. The usual preference dividends together with the ordinary dividend will be paid on October 13.

Anglo-Hellenic Oilfields, Ltd.

A report of the Anglo-Hellenic Oilfields, Ltd., for the two years ending June 30, 1923, has been issued. The balance-sheet at this date showed liabilities, including capital, calls in arrear of £425, and creditors of £7,491, at £37,366. Assets include property account, £16,140; investment account, £2,000; general expenditure, including £1,495 for directors' fees, £14,441; preliminary expenses, £4,780; office furniture, £11; cash, £24. This company was first registered in April, 1910, as the Anglo-Ottoman Oilfields, became the Anglo-Bulgarian Oilfields in December, 1914, and adopted its present title in September, 1920.

A boycott of British goods has been proclaimed by a large gathering of Ulema at Teheran. According to the proclamation, nothing is to be imported via Irak.

The foundation stone of the Maltese Pavilion in the British Empire Exhibition grounds at Wembley was laid on September 8 by Field-Marshal Lord Grenfell, a former Governor of Malta, in the presence of a large assembly.

M. Dimetri Joanowici, a Roumanian inventor, has asked the Canadian Government for two million dollars for the secrets of his process for keeping the harbours of Montreal and Quebec, the St. Lawrence Channel, and Cabot Straits open for navigation all the winter by means of powerful electrically driven air blowers designed to drive the ice off the shore.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 7/16-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	240
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	420-440
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.20-25.23
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅛-1.4 5/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	97.70
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	980-1,000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	80-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅛-1.4 5/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	760-780
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.53¼-4.53½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	80.25
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	152
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	102½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	440-480
Teheran	Krans to £	50	4 6
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,135,000*

* Nominal.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 645—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Italy and Greece.

During the present week the liquidation of the trouble between Italy and Greece arising out of the murder of the Italian military mission in Epirus will have been advanced a further stage. In accordance with the terms imposed by the Conference of Ambassadors the Greek Government will have conveyed its apologies for the murders to the Allied Powers, a funeral service in honour of the victims will have been held in Athens, the Allied flags will have been saluted by the Greek navy, and honours will have been rendered to the bodies of the victims as they are being embarked at Prevera. An Inter-Allied Commission of control will be sitting at Janina to supervise the investigation carried out by the Greek Government into the crime of August 27, and on its report on the details of this investigation it will depend whether Greece surrenders the whole of the fifty million lire deposited as security or is allowed to have the indemnity to be paid assessed by the International Court at The Hague. Up to this point the terms of the Conference of Ambassadors bear, as the Italians claim, a close resemblance to Signor Mussolini's ultimatum to Greece which was delivered under the expressed conviction that the assassins were Greek. The Ambassadors have it to their credit that they have secured from the Italian Government a definite pledge to evacuate Corfu on September 27, but they have not been strong enough to require the nationality of the assassins to be established before any penalties were exacted.

The Lesson for Greece.

It will carry with it no extenuation of the Janina crime if the Greek Government is complimented on the scrupulously correct attitude that it has adopted throughout the negotiations. In this connection Greece may have been fortunate in having at the head of affairs a group of men who have no political career at stake to prompt them to compromise between the only rational course to be pursued and an attempt to safeguard their position with the Greek public. It is to be hoped, however, that the lesson of the Janina murders will not be lost upon Greece. She will have paid the penalty for the crime, even if it be established that the culprits were not Greeks, and, unless further steps are taken in the matter, she will have no certainty that a similar outrage may not be committed at any time on the same or another frontier. In the political excitement that will shortly engross the nation there is a danger that nothing will be done to cope with this serious menace. If there is to be peace in the Balkans it is essential that the *komitaji* element should be removed, and this can be done only by an understanding between, and by common action on the part of, all the States concerned.

Balkan Unity.

One of the first steps taken by Signor Mussolini on finding himself in difficulties with Yugoslavia on the top of his quarrel with Greece is understood to have been the sounding of Bulgaria with a view to involving her in Italy's quarrel. If the allegation is true, Signor Mussolini's conduct is deserving of the strongest denunciation. The enmities of the Balkan States have been a menace to the peace of Europe for the last two generations, and until these enmities have been eliminated the menace remains. But here is the responsible head of a Great Power deliberately seeking to continue the divisions of the Balkans for his own petty ends. Bulgaria, we may hope, will have taken the measure of the Italian Prime Minister, while Yugoslavia and Greece ought to have brought home to them with redoubled insistence the necessity of closing the ranks of the Balkan States against interference from without. This can be done only by a candid discussion of all the questions that help to keep the peoples apart at the present time. Elections are pending in most of the countries, and as soon as these have been held serious consideration should be given to the problem of promoting Balkan unity.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

Unity is not likely to be furthered by the representations which the Yugoslav Minister in Sofia is said to have made last week to the Bulgarian Government, informing it that in the event of any *komitaji* band attempting to cross the frontier the Yugoslav Government would consider the attempt a *casus belli*, and would dispatch troops into Bul-

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garia to occupy strategic points. A situation of this nature calls for plain talking. If, as is quite possible, *komitaji* bands on the Bulgarian side of the frontier are preparing to raid Yugoslav territory, the *komitajis* are Macedonians who have been forced against their will to become Serbian or Yugoslav subjects, have refused to acquiesce in the treatment meted out to them by Government officials, and have "taken to the hills" rather than submit. It is true that Bulgaria incurs a moral responsibility for allowing her territory to be used as a place of refuge for Yugoslav subjects and their jumping-off ground for reprisals; it is also possible that for one reason or another the present Bulgarian Government has not made the fullest use of its opportunities for coping with these bands. At the same time it must be remembered that Bulgaria has a wholly inadequate army even for the maintenance of internal peace—if the estimates of the strength of these bands are accurate the *komitajis* outnumber the Bulgarian regular troops —that the present Government is having difficulty with the Agrarian Opposition and Communists, and that no Balkan country has ever yet coped satisfactorily with the *komitaji* curse.

The Better Way.

The very stiff Note sent to Bulgaria suggests that the Yugoslav Government is either venting its spite against Italy on Bulgaria, or, having heard of Italian intrigues in the latter country, is anxious to get its blow in first. Reflection must satisfy the Yugoslavs that in their present action they are merely playing Signor Mussolini's game, which was to weaken Yugoslavia by a threat from the rear. The only adequate rejoinder to the Italian Prime Minister is to close up the ranks of the Balkan States. The Yugoslav Government knows as well as anyone that the *komitaji* trouble is due to the injustice of the Balkan settlement, which has forced Macedonians to become Yugoslav or Greek or Bulgarian subjects against their will. The Nish Agreement between Yugoslavia and M. Stambolisky's Government was virtually an arrangement for placing the recalcitrant Macedonians between the Yugoslav and Bulgarian armies, and wiping them out of existence. There might then be peace in the Balkans, but it is to be hoped that Europe will not tolerate such barbarous methods of dealing with a problem that ought to have been properly settled by the Peace Conference, and is capable of a settlement which will not prejudice the real interests of any Balkan State. Until autonomy is granted to Macedonia—it can quite well be within the orbit of the Yugoslav State—there will be no peace in the Balkans, and the Macedonians will be a source of weakness to the three States concerned. Yugoslavia has it in her power to bring about a genuine settlement in the Near East, if she will call a conference of the Balkan States to deal with the Macedonian question. In the meantime she should tread warily in imitating the Corfu incident, for fear that the League of Nations will prove less complacent in having its covenant violated by a small Power.

The Fiume Problem.

It is good news that the crisis which threatened over the question of Fiume has been postponed, if not averted, by Italy's decision to resume negotiations on the subject. As we suggested in these pages last week, the Italian Note to Yugoslavia claiming freedom of action on September 15, in the event of the Yugoslav Government's rejection of the settlement proposed, may not have been technically an ultimatum; but, coupled with Signor Mussolini's announcement that he would not accept the arbitration of Switzerland, it augured ill for a peaceful solution. The Italian Prime Minister would seem to have been reminded that reference to Swiss arbitration was specifically provided for in the Treaty of Rapallo, to which Italy had affixed her signature, and it may also have been pointed out that repudiation of a treaty, in addition to a breach of the Covenant of the League of Nations, tended to place Italy in an entirely false position in the world's eyes. Be that as it may, the Italian Government has decided to try further for a settlement by negotiation. It is difficult, however, to see how a satisfactory solution can be reached until Italy realises that the mere possession of Fiume, even with Port Barrosh, will not bring prosperity to the town. As far as Yugoslavia is concerned, the potentialities of Port Barrosh are not of sufficient importance to justify war with Italy. The question, however, has a sentimental interest for the Croatians, and the Belgrade Government appreciates the necessity of avoiding the charge of being willing to sacrifice Croatian interests. If conditions in Yugoslavia were normal, the Government should have little difficulty in satisfying public opinion in Croatia on this point. Thus Yugoslavia labours under a further disadvantage from the unhappy divisions of its component parts.

Yugoslav Differences.

A consensus of opinion in Yugoslavia prevails outside the ranks of the Croats that the departure of M. Raditch has seriously embarrassed his followers and played into the hands of the Radical Party. It is probably too early to decide whether this is actually the case or not. The arguments in favour of a federal system of government for the Triune kingdom as against a highly centralised administration are so convincing that it would be strange if the federal movement could not survive M. Raditch's absence. The history of the country for the last three years creates distrust in these optimistic forecasts of stability for this or that political régime, and suggests that differences of opinion are too fundamental to be overcome by more or less artificial election results. Fortunately the country is making satisfactory headway in the material sphere, but M. Pashitch in his various tenures of office has brought the people no political progress. As a younger man than his great opponent, M. Raditch is prepared to bide his time, confident that the principles for which he stands command the support of a majority of the Yugoslav people, and will ultimately prevail. The trouble is that Yugoslavia must suffer in the mean time. It would be thought that, if M. Pashitch has any inkling of the inherent defects of his own centralised system, he would prefer to guide the country to the inevitable compromise rather than to know that, as soon as he is gone, his work will be entirely undone.

Zaghloul Pasha.

Zaghloul Pasha has returned to Egypt, and the scenes attending his arrival in Alexandria suggest that he has lost none of his popularity with a certain section of the Egyptian people. It remains to be seen what use he proposes to make of this undoubted asset. The fact that some of the crowd should have started stone-throwing, presumably at the police guarding the route, will serve as a reminder to Zaghloul Pasha that by some at least of his followers his presence will be interpreted as a signal for disorder. If, therefore, he is now to play a constructive part in the building up of independent Egypt, he will have to correct the impression that he is necessarily to be found in opposition to constituted authority. He is credited with being dissatisfied with the arrange-

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ments so far made between Egypt and the British Government; but for the sake of Egypt it is to be hoped that he will decide to build on what has already been achieved rather than attempt to pull down afresh. The country stands in need, after a period of marking time, of a constructive policy, and given goodwill on both sides, many of the outstanding problems are capable of being solved smoothly, without putting independent Egypt out of its stride.

Transjordania.

"Revolution in the Near East" may make a good heading for a newspaper poster, but it is hardly an accurate description of a minor outbreak in Transjordania. The first report was to the effect that the Emir Abdullah's "camp," presumably the capital, Amman, had been attacked by Adwan and Belk tribesmen, who sustained heavy losses. In the absence of more definite information it may be surmised that the collision between the tribesmen and the Emir's forces was the outcome of an incident that occurred a week or two previously. As a reward for services rendered against the Wahabis the Emir returned to the Beni-Sakhr tribe a sum of money collected as taxes. The sheikhs of Es Salt and the neighbourhood resented this action and demanded that the money should be returned to the Treasury. A meeting was called by the Emir to discuss the matter, and the sheikhs of Es Salt presented a number of demands which pointed to several other grievances than the matter in dispute, and reserved to themselves "liberty of action," if the demands were not granted. Emir Abdullah promised to consider the proposals, and it is possible that he may not have seen his way to grant them. There is plenty of inflammable material in Transjordania which is capable of spontaneous combustion, and there is no need to attempt to attribute to Palestine responsibility for supplying the spark when a fire takes place.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The League of Nations.

The matter that has everywhere been discussed during the past week has been the position of the League of Nations. Some assert that it performed very useful work in the Italo-Greek crisis, in the sense that it crystallised public opinion and presented it in solid form to the Ambassadors' Conference; others deplore its lack of initiative and its weakness in handing over its own proper affair to the Ambassadors; while others roundly assert that it has been killed by Signor Mussolini. The first is the view of those who, like Lord Hugh Cecil, are, except when their own country is concerned, virtually for peace at any price; they belong to a class which, while it contains neither idealists nor realists, and can, therefore, have no permanent effect in the world's history—for, confessedly, it concentrates on the temporary—yet is undoubtedly increasing in numbers. To the second class belongs a strangely mixed class of men—sentimentalists, intellectuals, and, generally speaking, the preferrers of the abstract to the concrete. In other times, without doubt, their wholly logical cry of "Justice before Peace" would be more widely heard and attended. And the last class is made up mostly of our essential "Die-hards," who, in fact, prefer men to measures, and acts to principles.

It is not difficult thus to categorise the different strands of opinion; but perhaps it is not of so much use as it might be, because already the fickle minds of this country are changing their opinions. One is almost forced to the conclusion that in this country few men have any real, fundamental political convictions. For the attitude of the majority of men to Italy in these last crises has been childish in the extreme. At first they preached, in the best and most impossible English style, to Signor Mussolini; then, yielding all hopes of his conversion, they reviled him; and, now that he has done what they wanted, though entirely in his own way, they once more are making out their former filibuster to be a statesman! It is, one must repeat, a sad lack of principle that makes men so quickly change their ground, and it seems to be the chief mark of modern English thought. Politically, the War has taught us very little.

The Policy of Compromise.

In effect, those who think that the recent European settlements have been happily made, and that it is injudicious to point out potential or actual holes in the patchwork, are worshippers of the policy of compromise. Now until recent times a sense of and an ability to compromise were commonly supposed to lie at the basis of all Britain's success, and, from a domestic point of view, those who hold that England's greatest history has been made since Elizabethan times have a strong argument. But in the wider world, especially in Europe, compromises do not work so well, and those who in present circumstances would rather see justice done than peace achieved probably have the wisdom of time on their side. Of course, the believers in compromise may say that it is not necessary, even if one concentrates first and last on peace, to do any permanent injustice; but you may ask them in return whether, if their own principles or policy were universally applied, the world would be lapped in peace. They all answer in the negative; they all think the world is in a worse state now than it has been for many centuries; they all, in brief, know that the short view is the wrong view. But, then, they will not see, neither are they interested in, the winners of the long run.

A Necessity of Action.

It is true, I believe, that the worshippers of the moment are increasing, so very pressing nowadays are the things that appear to matter, so much more remote than formerly are the things that really matter; but side by side with this develop-

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ment is an intense desire, growing daily stronger, to see something *done*. Of those who bemoan the plight of Europe, the danger of continental Bolshevism, the wickedness of France, and so on, you may pointedly ask "What would you do?" and you will surely get no practicable reply. The world admittedly—and everyone is saying this every day—is all wrong and mad, but the compromisers, except in the smaller affairs, get us nowhere. It is astonishing to hear intelligent men at once reproach France as the author of most modern ills and yet support our present Government. I do not suggest that our Government should have acted in any particular way—because I happen to believe that the French lay-out of Europe has more chance of endurance than any that we might have produced (it must have been a compromise between the Latin and the Teutonic view of Europe), but without any doubt at all this growing French supremacy is extremely disliked here, and the Government is being blamed for allowing it to develop under its eyes. Action, and not advice, from the Government is what our people are now crying for.

Protection and the Wool Trade.

One often hears it said that Protection and Free Trade are the only political issues that cause division of opinion nowadays; however that may be, division has certainly been caused by the decision, taken the other day, by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, to ask for protection in the woollen industry, protection both for the raw material and for the finished article. For a long time the Yorkshire woollen industry has thriven on Free Trade, but now, owing to foreign competition and the state of the exchanges abroad, it is suffering hardly; unemployment there is terrible. Even so, our *doctrinaire* Free Traders will not admit the desirability of Protection, and dilate dismally on the inevitably increased charge on the consumer; but our Protectionists, on the other hand, are almost gleeful at the necessity of protecting one of our staple industries. The ordinary man loses patience with both of the parties which make a fetish either of Protection or Free Trade; if, through the application of either, temporary difficulties may be overcome, then, he says, let us have it. But a general refusal or a general welcome are things with which he has no sympathy. The matter is one not of principle, but of expediency only, to be proved by practice alone.

The Birth-Rate.

Of all the addresses that were delivered at the British Association, which met last week, the one that excited as much interest as any was that given by Dr. Vaughan Cornish, who spoke on the population factor in the destiny of the British Empire. Some of our modern apostles of progress are all in favour of a decrease in our birth-rate: not so Dr. Cornish. He believes that the prosperity and security of this country and of the Empire depend, on the contrary, on an increased rate. The British Overseas Dominions must, if their purpose is to be fulfilled, be furnished with Britons; if Britons fail, assuredly some other people, not sharing the ideals of the Empire, will step in. But such a scheme as this, admirable as it is, depends, in the first place, upon a better distribution of industry at home; at the moment, the cry for immigration to the Colonies falls to a large extent on deaf ears. It is easily realisable that if our colonial markets are fully developed, our home industries will always be busy. No doubt the importance of our birth rate will be brought up at the Imperial Conference; but whether we shall see in the near future what most British statesmen would like to see—a very large movement from this country to the Colonies—is, perhaps, open to question.

Papyrus and America.

There was always one thing more important than the Italo-Greek crisis, and that was whether Papyrus, the winner of this year's Derby, would or would not go to America to race the best representative of the U.S.A. During the past week both problems were resolved, and, contrary to the public's wishes here, Papyrus is to go. The majority of the sporting world were against the race, even before the failure of Papyrus in the St. Leger; now the contest is more than ever unpopular. To an ignoramus this present decrying of the American proposal is a little bewildering; France, for example, sends her horses to us, and we make no great cry about it. It is inconceivable that Papyrus will be as handicapped by the American climate, atmosphere, water, and so on, as, say, the West Indian cricketers were by our weather; so that one is sorry to see in our "racin' journalists" so much attempt to write down the race before it has been won. Papyrus is an excellent horse, and the probability is that if an American horse beats it under equal conditions it is not good enough.

ALTER EGO.

THE EGYPTIAN SEASON.

A meeting is to be held in London on September 25 and 26 of representatives of the Egyptian State Railways, the Sudan Government Railways, the Palestine Government Railways, the Wagons-Lits Company, and of steamship companies interested in the Mediterranean or Nile services, as well as of the hotel companies of Egypt and the largest tourist agencies of Great Britain and the United States, to discuss arrangements that have been made or have yet to be made for the Egyptian tourist seasons 1923-24 and 1924-25. A feature of the tourist traffic to Egypt these days is the big touring party, several hundred strong, arriving on a large vessel, with a full programme crowded into a comparatively short time. As may be imagined, the arrival of two or more such parties at the same time in any one town in Egypt or Palestine imposes a serious strain on the local accommodation. One of the objects of the meeting next week will be to attempt so to organise the big tours that they will not overtax the accommodation available on the railways and in the hotels. The first effort in this direction was made last September, with satisfactory results; but, in view of the heavy bookings for the coming season, the need for perfecting organisation is more urgent than ever. Credit for the steps that are being taken to this end is due to the Egyptian Promotion Association, whose labours stand not only to benefit Egypt, but also to add materially to the comfort and pleasure of visitors.

It is officially stated that correspondence intended for the Military Forces in Irak should be addressed: The Officer Commanding Military Forces in Irak, Hinaidi Cantonment, Baghdad.

The Persian Legation in London announces that in future the issue and visas of passports and other Consular transactions relating to Persia will be dealt with by M. Mirza Morteza Gazvini, Persian Consul in London, of 16, Devonshire Square, E.C.2, to whom application should be made direct.

It is expected that the evacuation of the British Forces from Turkey will be completed by October 1. All telegrams and letters for General Headquarters and other disbanded formations and units of the British Forces in Turkey, which would otherwise arrive after evacuation, should be addressed to Cadre G.H.Q., B.F. in T., Percy House Schools, Isleworth, Middlesex.

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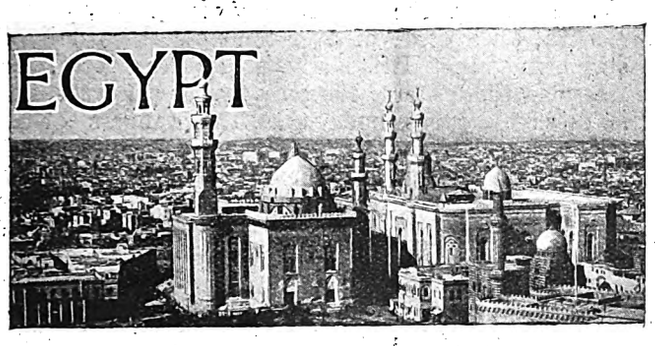
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 6.

The Elections.

The Prime Minister's recent circulars to Mudirs and Governors, urging them to hurry on the correction of the electoral rolls, the first compilation of which was such a fiasco, seem to have had their effect. It is stated that the lists will be completed by the day fixed—September 10—and that the polling for elector delegates will take place on September 27. A royal decree has been issued to-day fixing the latter date and also making it a public holiday. Government officials will be provided with free railway travelling to and from their constituencies, to enable them to exercise their right of voting. The second stage of the elections should take place about a month after the choosing of the elector delegates and, another month later, the senatorial elections. It appears, therefore, that the two Houses should be constituted by the early part of December, which would enable the Premier's promise that Parliament should meet early in January to be fulfilled, with something to spare.

Zaghloul Pasha.

The imminence of the elections has not led to any marked increase in the activities of the political parties. The Wafd holds occasional meetings in various parts of the country, but, at the moment, all parties are awaiting the return of Zaghloul Pasha before they settle down in earnest to the struggle. The hold which the aged leader still exerts upon the imagination and affection of a very large number of his compatriots is extraordinary. As soon as it became known that he would return in the near future, everything else sank into insignificance. It is no exaggeration to say that upon the line which Zaghloul Pasha takes depends not only the prospect of a peaceful transition of the election period, but also the chances of negotiations with Great Britain being undertaken in the near future. If Saad Pasha throws his influence on the side of progress along the lines which have been followed during recent months his return will have the happiest results. If, on the other hand, he comes out with a denunciation of the present Government and the work it has done, the passing of the Indemnity Act, the Foreign Officials' Compensation Act, the drafting of numerous laws to replace British Martial Law, and so on, the position of the present Government will be very difficult. It is always unwise to prophesy, especially in Egypt, but Zaghloul's lieutenants here are already exulting in the prospect of the trouncing which their leader is, according to them, going to administer, not only to his dearest opponents, the Liberal Constitutionals, but also to the Yehia Ministry, which has "bartered away the nation's rights." The Wafd has embarked on an intensive campaign against the existing Government, declaring it to be essential that the conduct of the country's affairs during the difficult election period should be in the hands of a Ministry which shall enjoy the confidence of both the King and the Wafd. It is not disguised that the Premier whom they have in view to replace Yehia Pasha is Tewfik Pasha Nessim. Nessim Pasha is one of the most remarkable figures in Egyptian politics to-day. His 1920-21 Ministry was, perhaps, the most unpopular with the country as a whole that has ever held office. It was subjected to unceasing attacks by the Wafd, Nessim Pasha's life was more than once attempted, and when he ceded the helm to Adly Pasha in the spring of 1921 he was advised not to live in his own house, on account of the great danger of his being assassinated. Zaghloulist students used to amuse themselves at that time by throwing dead dogs, with the label "Nessim" around their necks, into the ex-Premier's garden, as a small token of what they thought of the garden's owner.

A Believer in "Divine Right."

In the early part of last year Nessim Pasha was appointed head of the King's Cabinet. The position suited Nessim Pasha admirably, for if there ever was a man who believed in the divine right of Kings it is he. His politics are a combination of religious piety and intense loyalty. Nessim Pasha devoted all his energies to improving the position of the King in the eyes of his people. How successful were those efforts was indicated by the fact that when, in March 1922, the ruler of Egypt, from being a Sultan, became a King, the notables who went to the palace to congratulate His Majesty were pelted with tomatoes and rotten eggs, whereas six months later when King Fuad, in company with Tewfik Pasha Nessim, visited the Al Azhar Mosque, the enormous crowd gave His Majesty a tumultuous welcome. This complete change was directly due to the efforts of Nessim Pasha, who worked with signal success to induce the Wafd, previously almost openly disloyal, to recognise His Majesty. Nessim Pasha, at the same time, worked for the downfall of the Sarwat Cabinet, in which, also he was successful. Nessim Pasha's assumption of office was greeted with joy by the Wafd; but it was not long before the enthusiasm cooled, and before even the three short months which the Nessim Cabinet lasted had ended the Zaghloulist executive had begun to attack their late ally. History has repeated itself again this summer. Exactly the same process has gone on as last year. The Wafd is now once more intensely loyal,

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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and Nessim Pasha is acclaimed as the super-patriot. Everything possible is being done to embarrass the Yehia Ministry, which is going through much the same experience as the Sarwat Cabinet of last year. Once again the Wafd hopes that a Nessim Cabinet will be formed in the near future. Thus Nessim Pasha has in two years twice known the joys of extreme popularity, once been in danger of his life from the hatred of the mob, and more than once been regarded with mistrust. All this without ever changing his principles in the least, for he is a Diehard of the kind that never changes.

The Late Princess Abbas Halim.

Some ridiculous stories have followed the death of Princess Abbas Halim. There is a very widespread belief that her death was a mystery which has not been cleared up. Nothing could be farther from the truth. There probably never was a case in which it was possible to say with more certainty that death was accidental. Every particle of evidence fitted with the theory that the Princess was cleaning her revolver, not knowing it to be loaded, when it went off and killed her. In fact it is impossible to reconcile the known facts with any other manner of death.

Similarly, absurd rumours have been put about regarding the disposal of the deceased lady's estate and the alleged rival claims of her last two husbands. Some of these stories have been sent to London newspapers, though there is no truth in them and they must be very unpleasant to Prince Abbas Halim and his sister-in-law.

IRAK.

Baghdad, August 28.

The Overland Mail.

This letter leaves by the first overland mail to be taken by the Nairn Transport Company, and sent via Haifa and Port Said. The mail is due to leave Baghdad at noon on August 30, and it is expected that letters will reach London in ten days, or as quickly as the air mail. The cost per letter will, however, be threepence less than by the air mail. This is only a trial run, but it is hoped that the regular weekly service by this route will commence in October.

Cholera.

Interest in the elections, never very great, has at the moment almost entirely given place to interest in the cholera epidemic. Though it has now abated very considerably in Abadan and Basrah, an average of over ten new cases daily is still being reported from both of these places. In Baghdad there have been only five or six cases, and it is confidently hoped that the dangers of its appearing here in epidemic form are now small. Strict precautions have been taken by the Air Force authorities to prevent the spread of infection to the troops, and no cases have yet occurred among military details.

Persia and Irak.

Feeling between Persia and Irak shows no sign of becoming less strained. The Persian authorities have posted a notice in Kasr i Shirin saying that no passes are to be issued to pilgrims desiring to proceed to holy places in Irak. This action will affect somewhat seriously the revenues of the Irak railways, but otherwise is likely to have little effect on the country. It may, however, reduce the number of professional beggars in the holy cities.

September 5.

The cholera epidemic has subsided in Abadan and cases have now fallen to four or five a day. In Basrah, however, the average remains at 14 to 15 new cases daily, and in Baghdad it is beginning to assume epidemic proportions, some six or seven new cases coming to light each day. There have also been cases at Ali Gharbi and Amarah, a fact which shows that it is beginning to spread and that it has not been possible to confine it entirely to the towns of Basrah and Baghdad. The measures which it has been found necessary to take in order to check the spread of the epidemic, have included the suspension of third class traffic on the railways and on the river steamers between Basrah and Baghdad. This measure, though giving rise to much complaint, has done much towards keeping the disease more or less under control.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Abeba, August 20.

Abyssinia and the League.

In my letter last month I referred to the pressure at present being exerted by public opinion abroad upon the Abyssinian Government to introduce reforms, and I suggested that, in view of the reluctance of a powerful section of the Abyssinian people to accept reforms of any sort, the Government were likely sooner or later to find themselves confronted with an embarrassing situation. From the events of the past few days it would appear that the element in the situation which exercises most the minds of the Abyssinian Government is the possibility that such pressure may supply both the excuse and opportunity to one or other of the Powers most interested in the country for interference in the internal affairs of Abyssinia. This has raised anew the bogey of loss of independence, and their fear lest the discussion of slavery by the Assembly of the League of Nations next month may be made the occasion for some proposal aimed at their independence, has hastened a decision to put into practice an idea with which they have been toying for some months past. This is to apply for the admittance of Abyssinia to membership of the League of Nations with the object of securing what they believe

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membership will automatically give to them—namely, a guarantee of their independence by the thirty odd States comprising the League.

The suggestion that this application should be made to the League was submitted formally to the consideration of the leading chiefs of the empire about two months ago, and secured their unanimous approval. I understand that the Government asked for, and received from each of these chiefs, an assurance of his willingness and power to carry out in his own province any obligations which the Government might incur as a result of admission to the League.

The Mission to the League.

The Government, having cleared the ground as far as their own people were concerned, communicated with the Secretariat of the League, and arranged for the reception at Geneva of a Mission charged with the duty of making the formal application to the Assembly of the League. This Mission left Addis Abeba on August 13, and will reach Geneva before the end of the month. It is evident that the Government regarded the immediate despatch of the Mission as of urgent importance. Dajazmach Nado, the head of the Mission, arrived only on August 9 from his Province of Goré, in the far west of Abyssinia. He had been compelled to undertake the journey at the height of the rainy season—no light matter. He was not sufficiently recovered from his arduous journey to be received by the Government until August 11. He had, therefore, only two days in which to be primed for the part he is to play. The haste of the Government was, I think, due to the fact that they are anxious that their application for admittance to the League should be considered by the Assembly before that body embarks upon the discussion of slavery. It is a clever attempt to seize the bull by the horns.

There is no doubt that the decision of the Abyssinian Government is in the best interests of their country. It may be that the motives of all the parties to this decision have not been the same. It is probable that the majority of the chiefs who were consulted looked upon the proposal merely as the provision of a convenient bolt-hole from an embarrassing position. They felt they were being rounded-up, and if the League really provides, as they have been led to believe, a sanctuary from the inconvenient attentions of the foreign busybodies, so much the better! There are others, however, who are more far-seeing. They have recognised for some time past that the inevitable tug-of-war between the old order and the new has at last begun, and they realise that the struggle can only end in one way, and that if Abyssinia is not saved from within, it will be reformed from without. When they consider the problem of reform from within, three facts immediately emerge. First, that the Abyssinians themselves do not possess at present either the experience or the administrative capacity to conceive or to carry out the requisite reforms, and that it will be necessary in the long run to call in foreign advice and assistance. Secondly, that it will be difficult to secure the acquiescence of their own people in attempts to introduce reforms of any sort, because the population—the Abyssinian portion of it, that is to say—are easily swayed against the Government by the cry that the country is being sold to the foreigner, and the mere mention of reform is enough to raise this cry from the many vested interests which stand to lose by any change in the old order of things. Thirdly, that even if the acquiescence of the majority of their own people could be secured, the Abyssinian Government is not strong enough in a military sense to maintain law and order, let alone to impose reforms. Let Abyssinia, however, gain admittance to the League of Nations, the Abyssinian Government, they say, will be able to convince their people that their independence is so firmly secured that the employment of foreigners to bring the administration into line with modern requirements will constitute no menace to it. Moreover, from the League they will have some hope of obtaining advice and help that will be really disinterested. Finally, it cannot be doubted that they expect that Abyssinia within the League will be able to secure that reconsideration of the question of the supply of arms to the Abyssinian Government which Abyssinia outside the League cannot get. The plain fact is that they set down the restrictions imposed by the Powers on the entry of arms into Abyssinia to the policy supposedly pursued by Great Britain—of reducing Abyssinia to a state of impotence for her own nefarious ends. They believe that a consideration of the matter by a disinterested authority like the League will lead to their obtaining an adequate armament under reasonable guarantees against misuse, and they regard the obtaining of this armament as an indispensable preliminary to the administrative reconstruction which must precede reform.

A Representative Mission Necessary.

The more intelligent Abyssinians realise that before the Assembly of the League can grant their request for admission, they will be called upon to produce, in the words of the Covenant of the League, "effective guarantees of their sincere intention to observe their international obligations," and that in view of the recent agitation on the subject of slavery in the European Press the guarantees which they offer are not likely to be taken at their face value. This side of the question gives them some uneasiness; but, in any case, it is doubtful whether they anticipate any definite result from the present Mission, which is not of a composition to enable it to enter into any unforeseen engagement on behalf of the Abyssinian Government.

It is probable that the present Mission will obtain valuable information and experience which will prepare the way for a subsequent Mission really representative of the Abyssinian Government and of the Abyssinian people. The ideal composition of such a Mission would be the Regent, Ras Tafari, himself, with one or two of the most powerful chiefs representing the main divisions of the Abyssinian Empire. The arrangements made and the agreements entered into by such a delegation would secure the acceptance of the

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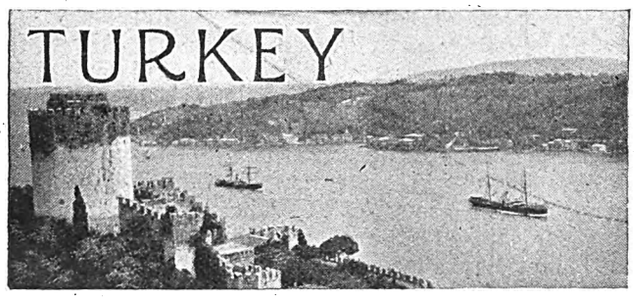
country as a whole as those of no other delegation could.

The Abyssinian Government are undoubtedly making an effort to grapple with their difficulties, and they should be given every encouragement. The Abyssinians are the sole remaining independent native State of Africa. They are on a plane above the other African races. It should not be forgotten that they have upheld the Christian faith for fifteen centuries, cut off almost entirely from contact with, or knowledge of, the civilised world, and surrounded by a ring of Mohammedan or pagan States. Now that such contact is beginning to take place, it is only fair to recognise and to respect the spirit which determines them to maintain their independence, and to endeavour to educate them to take their place among the free nations of the civilised world. Such a task—the regeneration of independent Abyssinia—is pre-eminently a worthy and fitting one to be entrusted to the League of Nations.



Constantinople, September 11.

The Government's Programme.

The event of the greatest importance during the past week has been the enunciation, on September 5, by the Premier, Fethi Bey, of the main lines of the Government policy in the Assembly. The main points on which the Government proposes to concentrate are the reform of the finances, the question of public security, the improvement of the situation of the Government officials, and the reorganisation of public instruction. Pride of place was rightly given to the problem of the State finances, for it is upon the solution of that problem that the realisation of the other plans of the Government entirely depends.

Criticism of the Government.

The Government's critical compatriots have devoted much space in the Press to the Premier's speech, and their criticisms, though perfectly sound, are not constructive. They all point out that schemes of reform cost money, and that balancing the budget is not necessarily the panacea for all the ills which the country has inherited from years of war and the old régime. The promise to reduce the tithe impost from 12 per cent. to 10 per cent. is naturally welcomed in Anatolia, where that tax on agriculture is chiefly felt, and the Constantinople middle-class Turk regards that move as an election device to strengthen the position of the Government in Anatolia, which has been showing numerous signs of restiveness, because the long-heralded millenium has not followed immediately upon the victorious campaign and the glorious peace for the attainment of which the Anatolian peasant has made the greatest sacrifices.

The fact is that the Government is now going to pass through the most critical stages of its career. If it can succeed in weathering this first period of disillusionment of the country at the delay in redeeming rather extravagant promises, it will probably carry on without serious convulsions, but it would be a mistake to take its estimates of the loyalty of the mass of the Turkish nation to the new régime too seriously.

Fictitious Wealth.

The numerous academic discussions on somewhat fantastic projects for the creation of various banks for the economic development of the country, the anxiety concerning the chances of Messrs. Kennedy and Chester raising the necessary money in America to carry out the works included in their gigantic concessions, and so on, show which way the wind is blowing. The *Ikdam* tried a new *ballon d'essai* the other day, when it described an alluring project of an Egyptian bank, financed by "richissimes" Egyptian magnates, whose sole aim and object in life is apparently to purchase gorgeous villas on the Bosphorus and settle down to a life of ease and gaiety there while expending their millions in putting Turkey upon her feet again. A delightful prospect for everybody except the Egyptians, who may be supposed to prefer the fleshpots of Cairo.

The Development of Anatolia.

There has been a great storm during the past few weeks on the subject of a supposed resuscitation of the old Tripartite Agreement between England, France, and Italy for the economic partition of Anatolia. It arose from a misapprehension in Turkish circles concerning the negotiations going on between British, French, and Italian capitalist groups on the subject of the exploitation of the Anatolian railways. The conjunction of the three Powers in the railway affair put the Turks into a fright, and we have been treated here to impassioned reiterations of their determination to avoid the renewal of the political and economic slavery of the past. They are a little cooler at the moment, but not by any means reassured; meanwhile certain semi-official details concerning the work of reconstruction which is being done on the railways has been published. The service between Constantinople and Angora has been improved, and the express does the journey daily in twenty-six hours. The railway stations have been completely rebuilt at Eski-Shehir, Afium Karahissar, Bilejik, and at a number of smaller places. Work is proceeding satisfactorily on the Smyrna-Karahissar line, and on the Panderma-Smyrna line the permanent way reconstruction is almost complete. The question of destroyed bridges is the most difficult. Wooden temporary bridges have in most cases replaced those destroyed; but final replacement of these temporary structures by permanent bridges is delayed owing to the non-arrival of the material ordered in Germany. Now it is beginning to be delivered, and a commencement has been made at re-erecting the bridge over the Meander at Serai-Keuy. It is also reported that sleeping and restaurant cars have been ordered from Europe for the Constantinople-Angora line, and when these are delivered the service will be still further improved.

Strikes.

As a slight indication of the Europeanisation of Turkey, the epidemic of strikes which has recently afflicted us may be cited. Here in Constantinople the slaughtermen and compositors have gone on

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strike, and the personnel of the Golden Horn Ferry Boat Company threatens to do so. In Anatolia the British-owned Aidin Railway were the sufferers. As regards the strike of slaughtermen here, it has served to convince the Vali, Haidar Bey, that the way of the efficient reformer is thorny. From time immemorial until a few weeks ago the consecrated method of transporting meat from the slaughterhouses to the retailers was to load a limp, sanguinary carcase, or part thereof, on the back of a hamal, who transported it to its destination, walking in the middle of the narrow pavement of the busiest streets in the busiest and hottest part of the day. You steered clear by walking in the road in the track of on-rushing motor-cars, which frequently forced you back against the perambulating butcher's shop. This has now been done away with, and replaced by the red-painted motor-lorries of an enterprising firm which has obtained the tender for all the transport of meat. The authorities and the company have been roundly abused by both butchers and slaughtermen because a profitable business had been granted to an efficient foreign concern, and the result was a strike which brought the Vali down at 9 a.m. to the slaughterhouses, where, apparently, he took a strong line. The strikers have now practically capitulated, and we are again supplied with meat.

The strike of the Turkish compositors is still going on, and the Turkish Press is confined to one combined paper run by the proprietors and another run by the men. The strikers are demanding a five-hours' day, 3 to 8 p.m., for morning papers, and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. for evening papers. The other Press organs in English, French, Greek, Hebrew, and so on, are not affected by the strike.

Memorial Services.

The series of farewell functions and ceremonies in connection with the Allied Evacuations was continued by the holding of memorial services at various Allied cemeteries. The French Christian and Moslem cemeteries were the scene of such ceremonies, and on September 8 a most impressive service was held at the British Crimean Cemetery at Haidar Pasha for the dedication of a memorial stone to the members of the British forces who have died in these regions during and since the War. There are in the cemetery 350 graves of British officers and men, who, with the exception of seventeen who died as prisoners of the Turks, have died here since the Armistice. The memorial stone, which has been erected on the summit of the cemetery, is of the standard type erected by the Imperial War Graves Commission; two others will also be erected later, one in memory of British Hindu dead at Osmanie, and another in memory of British Moslem dead at Mashlak. General Harington, who was accompanied by Admiral Brock, Mr. Henderson, General Charpy, and General Mombelli, unveiled the memorial, which was dedicated by the Principal Chaplain to the Forces, and wreaths, sent by the Army, the Australian and New Zealand Governments, and many others, were afterwards laid upon it. It may interest readers of THE NEAR EAST to know that the cemetery, which occupies a beautiful site near Florence Nightingale's hospital, overlooking the Sea of Marmara, is extremely well kept; it contains numbers of fine trees, and there are large quantities of flowers; it is one of the pleasantest places to wander about, and provides a mournful but interesting souvenir of the part British soldiers and sailors have played in Turkish affairs for over seventy years.

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GREECE.

Athens, September 7.

The Græco-Italian Incident.

Despite the extraordinary measures taken by the Greek authorities, who are assisted in their work of investigation by Captain Reed, sub-chief of the British Police Mission to Greece, despite also the offer by the Greek Government of a reward of one million drachmæ for any information which would lead to their discovery and arrest, the murderers of the Italian General Tellini and his four brother officers are still at large. The Greek theory that the perpetrators of this dastardly crime—whether they be Greeks or Albanians—have made good their escape over the other side of the border, is probably very sound. Apart from the fact that the Italian officers met their death at a distance a little less than three miles from the Albanian frontier, there is the evidence of the five shepherds who witnessed the whole drama from neighbouring hills, and who declare that the murderers, six in number, were attired in Albanian costume, and escaped into the dense forest leading into Albania. Up to the time of writing the Greek Government has not received a reply to its request that an international commission be allowed to carry on investigations both on Greek and Albanian territory; it is confidently believed, however, that the Council of Ambassadors will not reject this perfectly reasonable request, which may eventually lead to the removal of the stigma with which Italy was only too ready and too glad to brand her helpless Balkan neighbour.

The Occupation of Corfu.

The news of the Italian bombardment and occupation of Corfu was received by the Foreign Office soon after five o'clock last Friday afternoon, and half an hour later a hurried Council of Ministers was held to discuss the situation. By that time, however, several journalists who were waiting at the Press Bureau began to suspect that something serious was happening, and the news eventually leaked out. At 7.30 the *Hestia* published a special edition, which, however, by order of the Censor, refrained from mentioning the bombardment, merely announcing the occupation of the island. The truth was not generally known until 9.30, when an official *communiqué* was issued by the *Revolution*. Athenians were at first too surprised to be angry. Some people would not even believe it. They could not understand how a nation could commence hostilities against another nation and at the same time have a diplomatic representative calmly going about his business in their capital! Theatres, cinemas, and other places of entertainment promptly closed their doors, and every square, café, and restaurant in Athens became a centre of groups of patriots expressing common indignation at Italy's high-handed action. I actually saw an old man crying after reading the official *communiqué!* On Saturday nearly all the morning papers appeared with a black mourning border, presenting a remarkable contrast to the numerous white spaces left by the Censor in the place formerly occupied

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by bitter anti-Italian articles. One newspaper, the *Eleftheros Typos*, was suspended for twenty-four hours (it is believed by request of Signor Montagna, the Italian Minister) for publishing an article entitled "The Fugitives of Caporetto," while the overpatriotic Censor official who omitted to suppress the article in question was immediately relieved of his duties. Strictest measures were adopted by the Government to prevent an outburst of anti-Italian feeling, seeing that there are very nearly two hundred thousand Italian subjects in Greece, mostly Salonika Jews. All gatherings and demonstrations were forbidden, and an armed guard consisting of an officer and thirty men was posted outside the Italian Legation to protect Signor Montagna and the Legation staff. Guards were also assigned to the Italian Consulates in Athens and the Piræus, as well as to many of the leading Italian business firms. In view of the censorship's firm attitude, the newspaper comments were generally restrained after Saturday; they were uniform, however, in condemning the Italian action as illegal and rash, and even the most fanatical anti-revolutionary organs supported the Government's decision to place the whole matter before the League of Nations.

The double game which Italy played during the early stages of the episode caused a very painful impression to both Greek official and foreign diplomatic circles here. While in Athens Italy joined Great Britain and France in handing a more or less mild Note to Greece protesting against the Yanina murders, at the same time she had already taken an independent action of a most unusual character, without previously consulting, and even without the knowledge of, her Allies. It is an open secret here that Signor Montagna, who was the author of the first Italian Note presented to Greece, had prepared a second Note, practically amounting to an ultimatum, by which only five hours were given to the Greek Government to accept or to reject Italy's demands. The contents of the second Note were telegraphed to Signor Mussolini for approval, but, on being informed that a collective Allied Note was about to be presented to Greece, the Italian Premier overruled Signor Montagna's draft Note, and ordered the occupation of Corfu before either the Powers or the League of Nations could protest or intervene.

The Attitude of Greece.

On the other hand, Greece's attitude has been absolutely correct throughout the unfortunate affair. As the Premier, Colonel Gonatas, said to me the other day, Greece, with her conscience clear regarding her conduct, has acted in a most honourable fashion, as a law-abiding member of the League of Nations, and as a peace-seeking factor in the family of the European States. Greece, added the Greek Premier, is now awaiting tranquilly and with full moral strength the next developments in a question which can no longer be considered as affecting merely Greece and Italy, but the whole civilised world. "We are placing our case before the world with full confidence that at least our principles are sound, and if we fail that would mean disaster not only for us, but for the whole fabric of international justice and morality."

September 8.

The Note of the Conference of Ambassadors was presented this afternoon to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Alexandris, by the French Chargé d'Affaires. The terms of the Note differ widely from the old Italian demands, and are practically identical with Greece's counter-proposals which Italy rejected. A council of Ministers will be held to-morrow morning, after which, I understand, the Greek reply will be handed in, and thus reach Geneva in time for discussion at next Monday's session of the League of Nations. It is generally believed that Greece will accept unreservedly the terms of the Council of Ambassadors.

Another Græco-Italian Incident.

While dining last night at a seaside restaurant in Phaleron, the Military Attaché of the Italian Legation in Athens, Colonel Peroni, heard a Greek, dining with his wife at the next table, order some macaroni, to the accompaniment of a sarcastic remark regarding the Italian national dish. Colonel Peroni, losing his self-control, approached the unsuspecting Greek and struck him a heavy blow with his walking-stick across the face, inflicting a deep gash on the cheek. The other diners promptly rushed to their compatriot's assistance with uplifted bottles, plates, and even chairs, and only the timely arrival of the police rescued the Italian Colonel from an extremely awkward position.

Miscellaneous.

M. Zaimis having informed the leader of the Revolution, Col. Plastiras, that he had definitely decided to form a "Reconciliation Party," general elections have been fixed for October 28.

Owing to the Italian occupation of Corfu, Athens has been without European mails during the last eight days.

ANGLO-INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

A London branch of the Anglo-Indian Association has been established in affiliation with the several Anglo-Indian and Domiciled European Associations already existing in India and Burma. The object of the London association is the promotion in the United Kingdom of the interests and welfare of the above communities. Mr. H. A. Stark, M.L.C. (Bengal), was elected president; Colonel T. J. Dowden, R.E. (retired), vice-president, and Mr. H. A. Gibbon, hon. secretary. The office of the association is 88, Merton Hall Road, Wimbledon, S.W.19.

The Palestine Arab Delegation left London last Friday.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald stated at Glasgow last Friday that he had not cancelled his Constantinople tour, and that he was leaving within ten days for a month.

Recent Air Force appointments in the Medical Branch include that of Squadron-Leader (Medical) R. E. Bell, M.B., to Headquarters, Irak, and of Flight-Lieut. (Medical) W. E. Hodgins, M.B., to No. 5 Squadron, India. In the General Duties Branch Flying Officer S. E. Storrar has been appointed to No. 208 Squadron, Constantinople.

In connection with the various alarmist rumours which have been lately circulated to the effect that the Bulgarian Government are favouring and allowing the organisation on Bulgarian territory of a vast insurrectionary attack against Yugoslavia, the Bulgarian Legation officially state that the Bulgarian Government remain true to the policy of good relationship with the neighbouring States which they have adopted, and all measures, military and other, already taken in order to prevent any outbreak or trouble on the frontier have been reinforced since the last complications.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 20 (New Style).
August 7 (Old Style).
Saphar 8, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 11, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Noel Buxton arrived in Sofia last Friday from Belgrade.

Mr. Humphrey Bowman has returned to Palestine from England.

Lord Headley has returned to England from his pilgrimage to Mecca.

Mr. Ameer Ali returned last week to 2, Cadogan Place from Switzerland.

Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli have returned from Switzerland to 2, Park Street, W.

General Sir Charles Monro sailed from London on September 14 by the P. and O. s.s. Caledonia for Gibraltar.

Mr. George Gregg Fuller has arrived in Palestine to take up his duties as Vice-Consul at the American Consulate.

The Roumanian Minister and Mme. Titulesco, who are staying at St. Moritz, will not be back at 50, Grosvenor Street, until next month.

Lady Glanusk is leaving for India to-morrow in the Morea to join her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Alastair Cooper, at Risalpur.

The Hon. Mrs. Millington Drake arrived at the Ritz Hotel last Thursday from Roumania, on her way to visit Lord and Lady Inchcape at Glenapp Castle.

Before leaving Constantinople for the Dardanelles on September 12, Mr. Amery, the First Lord of the Admiralty, was received in audience by His Majesty the Khalif Abdul Mejid.

The Roumanian Minister at Washington, Prince Antoine Bibesco, will arrive in London next month. Princess Antoine Bibesco is spending some weeks with Mr. and Mrs. Asquith at The Wharfe, Sutton Courtenay.

The Hon. F. O. Lindley, C.B., C.B.E., has been appointed his Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Christiania. He was British Representative at Athens from 1921 to December, 1922.

Mr. Innes, Member of the Government of India for Industries and Commerce, who will be one of the representatives of India at the Economic Conference, has arrived at the Carlton Hotel.

The Hon. William Erskine, H.B.M.'s Minister to Bulgaria, and Mrs. Erskine left London last Friday for Alloa House, Clackmannanshire, on a visit to Mr. Erskine's brother and sister-in-law, the Earl and Countess of Mar and Kellie.

The Serbian Chargé d'Affaires and Madame Fotitch held an afternoon reception last Saturday at the Legation, 195, Queen's Gate, to celebrate the birth of the Crown Prince of Serbia. The reception was confined to members of the Serbian colony in London.

The King has granted to Mr. James Ferguson Lees, C.B.E., M.D., Director-General of the Egyptian Public Health Administration, authority to wear the Insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of the Nile, conferred upon him by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The King has approved the appointment of Sir Henry Robert Conway Dobbs, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., as His Majesty's High Commissioner for Irak, in the place of Sir Percy Zachariah Cox, G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., whose retirement took effect on September 15.

According to the *Palestine Weekly*, Col. P. B. Bramley, former Director of Public Security in Palestine, is returning to Jerusalem in a non-official capacity, and intends to make his residence there.

His Highness Sir Waghji Bahadur, G.C.I.E., Thokore Saheb of Morvi, India, who died July 11, 1922, intestate and a widower, left property in England valued for probate at £16,684.

A message from Reuter's correspondent at Rangoon states that Mr. J. J. Bennison, the Deputy Commissioner for Myitkyina, and Mrs. Bennison, were stabbed on September 14 by a Gurkha peon.

Major R. E. Harenc, 2nd Lancers (Gardner's Horse), Indian Army, who has been serving with the Turkish gendarmerie, has been appointed British representative on the Allied Commission of Inquiry into the Janina murders.

Mr. Richard Gillies Hardy, C.S.I., J.P., of Benson, Oxon, and of the Bengal Civil Service, formerly Acting Secretary to the Government of India and a member of the Legislative Council, who died June 1, aged 71 years, left £19,970.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1923.

IN SMOOTHER WATERS.

The sudden storm that troubled the waters of the Adriatic is in process of dying down. Last week the hope was expressed in these columns that Italy might prove even better than her implied pledge by losing no time in withdrawing her troops from Corfu. She has now undertaken to evacuate the island on September 27, and she is to receive the whole of the fifty million lire deposited by Greece as security with a Swiss bank if on that date the assassins of General Tellini have not been discovered and Greece can be shown to have been negligent in searching for them. If the murders had taken place in China there would have been no difficulty in obtaining volunteers for execution in the event of the real authors not appearing, but on the Græco-Albanian frontier the chance of bringing home the crime to one particular band must appear remote even to the optimistic Conference of Ambassadors. A satisfactory settlement, therefore, will depend on the Greek Government's ability to satisfy the Allied Commission under whose supervision the inquiry into the murder is being carried out that its efforts to track the murderers have been whole-hearted. We can but hope that unanimity on this point either in the Commission or in the Conference of Ambassadors will not be a *sine qua non;* for, although it is difficult to imagine any reason that would impel Greece to shield the assassins, there has been no indication that Italy has abandoned her contention that the Greek Government or Greek officials were the instigators of the crime, and under this conviction the most strenuous methods of investigation, if unsuccessful, may simply be denounced as lacking in thoroughness. Until September 27, therefore, the crisis cannot be said to be over; but at the moment the indications are favourable.

It is a strange feature of the solution of the Græco-Italian crisis that all the parties to it find support for their own point of view. Italy has no doubt that she has won all along the line; Greece, as befits her unfortunate position in the matter, is not going to spoil the good impression created by her correct attitude in very trying circumstances by expressing satisfaction at the way things have gone; but she must be conscious of having been rescued from a worse fate. To the Conference of Ambassadors belongs the credit for having liquidated the crisis. It has taken no very heroic line, at least in public. A certain degree of firmness may have been necessary to secure the decision for evacuation by a specified date, but it has acquiesced in the payment in certain circumstances of an entirely vindictive penalty. As far as the League of Nations is concerned, there is to be no settlement of the controversy raging round the part that it has played in the dispute. Some, convinced from the outset that the League was worthless, point to the present episode as confirmation of their theory; more vigorous opponents rejoice in the League having administered, as they think, to itself its own deathblow. Mr. Lloyd George, who claims to be a sincere friend of the League that he helped to bring into existence, is satisfied that its "authority" has been destroyed. He would have the League either flabby, to the extent of doing nothing unless both parties to a dispute agree to accept its arbitration, or a sabre-rattler to the extent of urging one or more Powers "to take whatever measures were necessary to force the recalcitrant to submit." Fortunately, an increasing number of people are coming to realise that the primary object of the League is to prevent a disturbance of the peace. There could be no question of the Council at Geneva ignoring a matter officially submitted to it by one of its member-nations, and to its credit it lost no time in acting. A strong argument in favour of secret diplomacy will be provided if the League is to be judged by telegraphic summaries of its debates rather than by its official action. In referring the Græco-Italian dispute to the Conference of Ambassadors, it took the quickest and surest route to the maintenance of peace, as the event has abundantly proved. In different circumstances other measures might have been called for; but in the face of the fact that peace has been kept, it seems hypercritical to condemn the League for having discovered the one effective means to that end.

It is true that Signor Mussolini announced *urbi et orbi* that he would have none of the League's interference; but it remains to be seen whether even this stout utterance will kill what two score of nations are determined to uphold. As a world organisation the League is not yet complete, and its machinery is not yet perfected. The country that will break its pledge by resorting to an act of war before submitting its dispute to arbitration will naturally denounce the competence of the League whose covenant it has violated. The League, however, was never forced upon Italy; of her own free will she gave certain pledges with the object of safeguarding the world's peace. If Signor Mussolini elects to violate Italy's pledge at the first opportunity, his action does not invalidate the soundness of the League as an international instrument for peace, although it may emphasise its limitations, which were known to all. Italy by another agreement undertook to submit in certain circumstances the Fiume question to the arbitration of Switzerland. Signor Mussolini announced his intention of breaking that pledge as well; but it is Italy and not Switzerland who will suffer from this mania for violating pledges, when she finds the whole world on its guard against her. Already Signor Mussolini has appreciated the wisdom of trying to gloss over his second repudiation, and negotiations with Yugoslavia are to be continued. Whether the restraining existence of the League of Nations or a realisation that Italy cannot afford to regard all her engagements as "scraps of paper" is responsible for Signor Mussolini's second thoughts may never be known. Italy as a nation supported her Prime Minister in his vigorous action for obtaining redress for the Janina murders, but must be exonerated from any desire to risk a fresh war. That for a moment Signor Mussolini was prepared even to face the latter may be inferred from his attempt to compromise Bulgaria in his quarrel with Greece and Yugoslavia. It is to be hoped that the Sofia Government, in spite of the flattery implied by such an attempt, will not add to its country's troubles by an injudicious policy at this particular moment. For the smaller States of Europe the League of Nations remains their one sheet anchor. They need believe no one who says that it has been weakened or who would seek to persuade them to set less store on honourable membership of the League than on the invidious rôle of a hanger-on of this or that Great Power.

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IRAK'S NEIGHBOURS.

[In our issue of September 6 we published that part of Sir Percy Cox's recent "Report on Irak Administration" (October, 1920, to March, 1922) dealing with Irak and Nejd. We here extract the remainder of his account of Irak's foreign relations. —ED.]

Until the signature of the treaty between Great Britain and the 'Iraq,* together with the confirmation by the League of Nations of the relations between the two Governments, the international position of the 'Iraq is necessarily ambiguous. Pending a definition of 'Iraq nationality, laissez passers have been issued by the 'Iraq passport authorities and Divisional Advisers, while in the case of 'Iraqis abroad arrangements are being made for their issue by British Consular representatives.

Relations with Turkey.

Throughout the period under report the 'Iraq Government has been in the anomalous position of having, in Turkey, a neighbour theoretically in a state of armistice, but, in fact, clearly hostile. Apart from the political effervescence which the efforts of the Kamalists have maintained on the Kurdish frontier, the economic effects have been serious.

The Sanusi.

Turkish propaganda has been associated in the main with the name of Shaikh Ahmad al Sanusi. In January, 1921, he was first heard of as having arrived in Diyarbakr from North Africa; in April he was reported to be in Mardin, and in May he was spoken of as being either the Turkish candidate for the throne of the 'Iraq or else the deputy of Burhan al Din Effendi, a son of the Sultan 'Adbul Hamid. The candidature of Amir Faisal was the signal for an intensive effort to advocate his cause. A large number of his manifestoes found their way to Mosul and other parts of the country. They were violently anti-foreign and pan-Islamic in tone, and no less singularly ineffective. Arab Nationalist hopes and Islamic ideals were alike satisfied by the qualifications of the Amir Faisal, and his arrival in Baghdad was immediately followed by the submission to himself of those chiefs of the Shammar Jarba' who had remained in close touch with the Turks and had been in March the recipients of lavish decorations. It was a decisive rebuff to the pretentions of the Sanusi, or rather to the anticipations of his principals, for he is himself a typical darwish, devoid of initiation and used merely as mouthpiece. In December, 1921, rumours were current that he was to be set up as the ruler of a semi-independent Trans-'Iraq State, embracing Jazirah, Rawanduz and Sulaimani, but a scheme of this nature would seem to combine every element of failure, and the Sanusi himself is generally believed to be highly dissatisfied with his position and anxious to return to his own country.

The complete lack of success which has attended Turkish propaganda among the Arab tribes on the frontier was further exemplified by the return to the fold in June of Daham al Hadi, who had been one of the recipients of Turkish honours. He is the favourite grandson of the old chief Al 'Asi, who is probably still the greatest name among the Shammar. Daham has been given rights of cultivation at 'Awainat, within the 'Iraq frontier, while Al 'Asi is cultivating extensively at Rumailan, the nearest point on the frontier to Nisibin. The Tai, who are nominally in the French zone, have been forced by their proximity to the Turks to enter into relations with the latter, and Bulaibil, the chief of the small Albu Hamad tribe, has maintained a robber band near Jazirah, but the successful bombing of his encampments in June, 1921, in retribution for his attacks on barges on the Tigris belonging to the inhabitants of Zakho, led to a pronounced diminution in his activities. Aeroplane action was also taken over the frontier in August, when Naif Beg of the Miran Kurds crossed the Tigris to raid the Hassanan in the neighbourhood of Faishkhabur. (At the end of March, 1922, Naif Beg was seeking permission to settle in 'Iraq territory.)

Turkish Propaganda Among Indian Troops.

Turkish propaganda has also been directed against the loyalty of our Indian troops, in the form of circulars in Urdu emanating either from Angora or from Pan-Islamic associations in Anatolia. Muhammadan troops were urged to murder their officers and desert to Mustafa Kamal, who was preparing a great army for the extirpation of the infidel and the liberation of the holy places of 'Iraq. The effects produced by these appeals were imperceptible, and since July the dissemination of pamphlets of this nature has ceased.

Kamalist Difficulties with the Kurds.

On the Kurdish side, the Kamalists have had troubles of their own. In January they were forced to take measures, attended with no great success, for the subjection of the Hawerki, and in October they attacked Shernakh with a considerable force, partly composed of tribes at feud with 'Abdul Rahman Agha, Shaikh of Shernakh, who has been practically independent since the armistice. He has been at pains to cultivate friendly relations with the British authorities, and on the arrival of the Amir Faisal he, with other Kurdish leaders, expressed to the latter their willingness to accept him as King and to form part of the 'Iraq State under conditions of local autonomy. When the Turkish attack developed he was obliged, owing to lack of ammunition, to come to terms. During the winter he refused all invitations to present himself in Jazirat ibn 'Umar, but in February, when, as a result of the Angora Agreement, the Kamalists had been able to increase their force on the 'Iraq frontier and to place outposts as far as the vicinity of Zakho, along the foot of the Shernakh hills, he found himself obliged to give way to Kamalist threats and visited Jazirah. Even then he did not agree to Turkish schemes for an offensive against the 'Iraq.

Kamalist Efforts at Rawanduz.

Within the 'Iraq borders such success as the Turks have met with has been obtained in the Rawanduz area, and is due to the insurgence of the Surchi chiefs of 'Aqrah and malcontents of Rawanduz. In May, 1921, measures were taken against the Surchi, as a result of which Batas was reoccupied and the Surchi chiefs made submission, with the exception of 'Ubaidullah and his half-brother Raqib. The political atmosphere showed every sign of clearing, and overtures had been put forward by the Rawanduz leaders, when in June a new factor was introduced by the appearance of a Kamalist official with a small Turkish reconnaissance. Active propaganda was instituted among the tribes, and by the end of July the Turkish force had been increased to about sixty rifles, with a gun and two machine guns. The police post at Batas was attacked on July 31 and forced to surrender; ten days later the Pizhtgelli section of the Khushao under Ahmad Beg delivered an unsuccessful attack on Rania. The local tribes rallied to the British authorities, Babakr Agha of the Pizhder was as unwavering as ever in his adherence, and operations conducted in the Shaur district by a

* The official spelling is everywhere retained.—[ED.]

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combined force of levies and tribesmen, with aeroplane support, brought the villages to submission and obliged the small Turkish military element to beat a hasty retreat.

Nevertheless, the presence of the Turks was a continuous menace to local peace, and in September a force of levies and police, supported by aeroplanes, entered Dasht-i-Harir and inflicted punishment on the tribes. Again the combination of native forces and aeroplanes gave highly satisfactory results. As a result of this action 'Ubaidullah made submission, paid up a fine of rifles and ammunition, and accepted responsibility for the maintenance of law and order in Dasht-i-Harir. But for the second time the Kamalists upset the equilibrium, and the arrival, in December, 1921, of Turkish reinforcements amounting to eighty men, with ammunition and three machine guns, shook the favourable resolutions of 'Ubaidalluh, who on December 14 treacherously attacked a levy reconnaissance at Babachichik between Arbil and Harir. This ambush led to operations by levies, police, and aeroplanes on a larger scale, with salutary results, though they involved the loss of two British officers. The tribesmen were demoralised and disheartened, the Turkish force was reduced to about seventy men, and the leading insurgent chiefs, with the exception of 'Ubaidullah, made overtures to H.M. King Faisal, and were given permission to come in under safe conduct, a permission of which they have not yet availed themselves.

Sulaimani Frontier.

On the Sulaimani side intensive anti-British propaganda, carried out through the medium of the Persian Kurdish chiefs of Aoraman and of Mahmud Khan Dizli, was the feature of the end of the year 1921. Mahmud Khan, chief of the village of Dizli in Persia, had been concerned in the rising of Shaikh Mahmud in 1919. He was captured by the Persian Government in 1920 and handed over to the British authorities. After a term of imprisonment in India he was released in September, 1921, and allowed to proceed to Sulaimani, under a guarantee that he would not cross the Persian frontier. This condition he promptly broke; he returned to Dizli and wrote to Mustafa Kamal asking for arms to enable him to drive the British out of Sulaimani. Late in December several petty Aoraman chiefs, who were undoubtedly in touch with him, entered the Halabja plain and proceeded to collect taxes. In the middle of January a levy force was ambushed near Halabja in an attempt to recapture a local suspect, and suffered casualties which included the British officer in command, Captain Fitzgibbon. An attack on Halabja was averted by highly successful aeroplane operations, and Mahmud Khan Dizli returned across the Persian frontier. His followers continued to commit depredations in Halabja plain until, in March, threats conveyed by aerial reconnaissance persuaded him to put himself into communication with the British authorities.

With regard to persons connected with Shaikh Mahmud's rising of 1919, his brother 'Abdul Qadir and distant relative, Gharib Ibn 'Arif, together with his follower, Shaikh Ahmad, were released from Henjam under the amnesty in May. The two first-named are living at liberty in Baghdad, while Saiyid Ahmad was allowed to return immediately to Sulaimani. Shaikh Mahmud and his brother-in-law, Shaikh Gharib ibn Ma'ruf, were released from prison in India in January, and are at present in Kuwait, where they are retained as political detenus pending their ultimate return to Sulaimani.

Rumours of Kamalist Attack.

Throughout the past year, rumours of an impending Kamalist attack on 'Iraq were persistent, and after the conclusion of the Angora Agreement caused serious anxiety. The fact that the headquarters of the 3rd Division were transferred to Sa'airt had, without doubt, grave significance; the garrison at Jazirat ibn 'Umar was strengthened and small posts placed along the frontier. It was at this moment that the rallying of the Assyrian refugees and their enlistment in great numbers in the levies, as has been recounted, proved of signal value, and as this report closes it is increasingly unlikely that the Kamalists can venture on an attack in force in the immediate future. But until the conclusion of peace between the Allies and Turkey finally stabilises the situation, the threat from the north cannot be disregarded, while Turko-Bolshevist intrigue will continue to be a menace to the 'Iraq State.

Persia.

In January, His Majesty the Shah, travelling strictly incognito, passed through the 'Iraq on his way to Europe. On his arrival at Baghdad he was met by myself and representatives of the King, but the private character of his journey precluded any official reception.

Pusht-i-Kuh.

Relations with the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh have been mainly concerned with the vexed question of the Wali's right to levy grazing fees on those sections of the Bani Lam who are accustomed at certain seasons to graze their flocks in Pusht-i-Kuh territory. In former days before the fixation of the Turko-Persian frontier, the Bani Lam were accustomed to graze free in what the Wali considered his limits; in return for which a small present of a horse or a few rifles was given to the Wali. On the conclusion of peace, however, the Wali claimed the right to collect the full tax in respect of the flocks grazing in his territory and based his claim on the contention that the custom whereby the Bani Lam had formerly escaped such tax had arisen solely out of the indeterminate nature of the boundary and that, since the fixation of the boundary by the Boundary Commission in 1914, there remained no justification for the custom. Attempts to induce the Wali to forgo his claim and to continue the old friendly custom of reciprocal free grazing rights between himself and the Bani Lam proved unavailing, and, as the Wali's claim was legally justifiable, there remained no option but to recognise it. This decision is by no means pleasing to the Bani Lam Shaikhs, who resent as a reflection on their dignity the necessity of paying the Wali for what they have received for generations by custom. The tension thus produced between the Wali and the Bani Lam has been increased by the truculent behaviour of the former, who has twice in the last few months raided the flocks of the Bani Lam with the object either of making up arrears which he considers due to him, or of punishing those whom he suspects of attempting to evade payment of the tax. It is only with difficulty that the Bani Lam have been prevented from retaliating against these acts of aggression. The possibility of avoiding such disputes for the future and of saving the *amour propre* of the Bani Lam by making a fixed annual payment to the Wali through the 'Iraq Government in return for free grazing rights in the Pusht-i-Kuh is now under consideration, and negotiations with this object in view have been opened with the Wali.

There can be little doubt that the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh is anxious to take advantage of any weakness on the part of the 'Iraq Government to improve his own position at its expense. One of his methods, for example, has been to purchase, generally through an agent, estates contiguous to his own territory, but on the 'Iraq side of the fron-

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tier. The local Qaimmaqam has, however, refused his application for title deeds confirming these transactions, and the Wali has requested me to intervene on his behalf. I have referred the whole question to the Council of Ministers, pointing out the complications likely to arise if neighbouring potentates are permitted to own large estates in 'Iraq contiguous to territory which they control in an official capacity. The Council is inquiring fully into the Wali's claims, and I do not anticipate that its decision will be in his favour.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

NEW LIGHT ON OLD PROBLEMS.

"THE OLDEST LETTERS IN THE WORLD TELL US—WHAT?" By Mrs. Sydney Bristowe. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 5s. net.)

Let it be said at the outset that we sincerely hope that Mrs. Sydney Bristowe is quite right. If we do not venture to say that we think she is, it is only because the opinion of anyone who cannot study the records at first-hand necessarily lacks weight. Mrs. Bristowe herself, it may be inferred, has to be content with translations of the Amarna Tablets, and to this extent is at some disadvantage, even when she is sure enough of her ground to hold that So-and-so's translations "are the most convincing, chiefly because they are more colloquial than others." But the advantage that our author has is that she has brought to bear on the study of her subject not only a full knowledge of the Bible, but also a very strong conviction in its inspiration, and a resolve that where its evidence clashes with other records a way must be found to refute the latter. Therefore, both for what she sets out to prove and for the means on which she relies to prove it, we may hope that, if archæology can throw further light upon the subject, it will be confirmatory and will not reveal the weak joints in her armour.

"The Oldest Letters in the World" are, of course, the Amarna Tablets, and, among the things of which they tell us is Joshua's conquest of Palestine, from the Egyptian and Canaanite point of view. They consist for the most part of letters from rulers of Palestine to Amenhotep IV. calling upon the Egyptian king for help against the invaders of their country, which was part of his dominions, and expressing dismay at his failure to protect his own territory. The key to Amenhotep's strange conduct is supplied by our author, who suggests that the heretic religion that he had adopted was none other than that of the Hebrews, and that in deliberately turning a deaf ear to his subjects' entreaties he was consciously helping the fulfilment of the prophecy that had promised Palestine to the Israelites. Could there possibly be a more attractive theory than that the Pharaoh of the Exodus and his immediate successors became followers of the God of the Hebrews, abolished the idolatry of Egypt, and for that reason incurred the hostility of the priests, who on coming into their own again undertook a systematic campaign of vilifying the "heretic kings" and of falsifying all the records of their reigns?

It has generally been accepted that, while Joshua was conquering South Palestine the Amorites were taking possession of Phœnicia. Mrs. Bristowe shows that the Land of the Amorites had been previously occupied and dwelt in by the Israelites, who then became identified with them, and were called Amorites by the Canaanites. It was thus the Israelites, and not the Canaanites—an inferior race, as they are termed in the Bible—who conquered Phœnicia and besieged Tyre. On this point, it so happens, the Amarna Tablets come to the help of the Bible, and Joshua's reputation as a military leader is vindicated in connection with his supposed failure to capture the chief city of the Phœnicians. Where the Bible makes him burn Hazor, we should read Tyre, Zor being the Hebrew name for Tyre, meaning rock, and Ha or Kha being the article. It follows, therefore, with Euclidian precision, that the Phœnicians of later times were Israelites, Asher and Dan constituting the seafaring tribes, and becoming those "enterprising mariners and dauntless colonisers" who came westwards to Britain. Hence, "at least as far as their Phœnician ancestors go, the British have rightfully inherited nearly all the promises made to Shem's descendants, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Other points remain to be cleared up. Our author disposes of the great Hittite Empire—a conception that clashes with the easy conquest of the Biblical Hittites by the children of Israel—by merging it into the kingdom of Dusratta of Mittani, himself of Aramæan descent and closely akin to the Hebrews, the Aramæans being descendants of Shem, from whose son Aram they derived their name; while the Hebrews came from Eber, Shem's great-grandson. Dusratta, as we know, had a sister and a daughter married respectively to Amenhotep III. and Amenhotep IV., an additional factor perhaps in the religion of both. His empire, Mrs. Bristowe argues, was too great to allow room for another empire, the Hittite, at the same time in the same part of the world, and accordingly we have to fall back again on priestly falsifications. On this point, while the reader will be prepared to forgive Dusratta for his weakness for aliases and nicknames, he will grieve over the loss of such a picturesque personality as Subbiluliuma. To many his disappearance from the pages of history will come as a personal blow, which our author does nothing to soften in ending abruptly on a theory which would transfer the reader's affections from the sublime Subbiluliuma to the ridiculous Dusratta.

A TOUR IN POST-WAR EUROPE.

"A NEW WORLD THROUGH OLD EYES." By M. S. Ware. (London: G. P. Putnam. 9s. net.)

We are, as a nation, far too apt to assume that the inhabitants of the U.S.A. are as ourselves, and it is odd that this curious assumption should persist in spite of the constant reminders which they give us that nothing can be farther from the truth. This imposing volume by Mrs. Mary S. Ware is one of these reminders. What Englishwoman would think of giving to the world at large a collection of intimate private letters written to her "dear family" in the course of travel, and dealing quite as much with the private affairs of the said family and of new and old acquaintances met as with the affairs of the countries visited? But this is precisely what this gallant old lady of eighty has done. Her publishers announce the volume as "an account of her impressions of post-War Europe. In 1921 she visited twenty-one Continental countries, including the Balkans and the Near East, and in this volume she gives a vivid account which does justice to both the victors and the vanquished." The actual travels occupied eight or nine months, and the "vivid account"

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is mainly of how A. and B. were "perfectly lovely" to her, what splendid people C. and D. are, how E. is so much nicer than F., and so on, A., B., etc., being usually Americans met during her travels who are known to her "dear family." She keeps us informed that she is zealously pro-British, that she sticks up for the Jews, that she hates the Turks, and that America won the War. She gives snippets of conversations with various "interesting people" which are of no value. But she has a sense of humour, and the picture of the kind-hearted and indomitable old lady in places like Smyrna and Tirana which she unconsciously presents us with has its charm. Those who like to read the long chatty private letters of an "Aunt Mary" belonging to a family of which they know nothing will enjoy this book. Personally, we feel as if we had been reading letters not intended for our eye, and that our indiscretion has not resulted in any useful addition to our information.

What the authoress might have done if she had "scrapped" the letters and written a real book of countries which she knew before the War may be guessed by the delightful sixty pages of reminiscences of her own life which she prints at the end of the work. A charming old lady of strong personality she is, but her book is hardly likely to appeal to English readers.

LUXOR JUNK.

"JOSH JENNINGS AT LUXOR." By Capt. R. W. Campbell. (London: Nash and Grayson. 7s. 6d. net.)

A novel upon the recent discoveries at Luxor and the consequent visits to them was, one supposes, inevitable in these days when anything that can excusably bring in a "desert" and a harem is a paying proposition, but really there was no need for such sorry "junk" as this. Captain Campbell has merely collected a few types—the strong, lackadaisical British administrator, the hustling, enormously sentimental American, his equally sentimental daughter—of course, a first-rate shot—a few natives, some rascally, some faithful, and the necessary rest of the stock-in-trade. There is no story worth the retelling. A series of incidents, in which the author is enabled to convey the fineness of the British character and achievement in Africa, ends swiftly—if sufficient pages be skipped—in the American girl and somebody of the Camel Corps kissing each other "below the stars."

ORTHOPTERA IN MACEDONIA.

Contained in "The Transactions of the Entomological Society of London, 1923" (London: 41, Queen's Gate, 36s.), is an interesting and extremely instructive chapter called "A Contribution to our Knowledge of the Orthoptera of Macedonia," by Malcolm Burr, B. P. Campbell, and B. P. Uvarov. Practically all this particular knowledge amassed by Dr. Burr and Captain Campbell was gained during the War in the area of the British Army in Macedonia, especially in the district at the back of Salonika; and it will certainly entertain those of our soldiers who were either amused or pestered by the antics of certain local insects to find them here identified. It cannot, however, be supposed that the interest of this paper is other than technical and specific, though it is of none the less value on that account. And even those innocent of entomological zeal can easily read of the enthusiastic discoveries of these cheery "bug-hunters."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Unity Triumphant." By Elizabeth Herrick. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Origin of Biblical Traditions: Lectures on Biblical Archæology." By Albert T. Clay. Yale Oriental Researches. Volume XII. (London: Humphrey Milford; and New Haven, Conn: Yale University Press.)

"Buddhist Philosophy in India and Ceylon." By A. Berriedale Keith, D.C.L., D.Litt. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"An Englishwoman in Angora." By Grace Ellison. With 35 illustrations. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 18s. net.)

"Equatoria: The Lado Enclave." By Major C. H. Stigand, O.B.E. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd. 21s. net.)

"Tales from the Indian Drama." By C. A. Kincaid. (London: Oxford University Press. 1s. net.)

"Baha'u'llah and the New Era." By J. E. Esslemont, M.B., etc. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

"The Truth About Mesopotamia, Palestine, and Syria." By J. de V. Loder. With a Foreword by Lord Robert Cecil. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"From a Terrace in Prague." By B. Granville Baker. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s. net.)

"Arab Asia: A Geography of Syria, Palestine, Irak and Arabia." By Lanice Paton Dana. (Beyrout: American University Press. 6s. 3d.)

"Christian Literature in Moslem Lands." (New York: G. H. Doran Co., $3.50 net.)

"The Minoans." By George Glasgow. (London: Jonathan Cape. 4s. 6d.)

"A Short History of the Near East." From the Founding of Constantinople (330 A.D. to 1922). By William Stearns Davis, Ph.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 14s. net.)

"A Dictionary of Old English Music and Musical Instruments." By Jeffrey Pulver. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Modern Music: Its Aims and Tendencies." By Rollo H. Myers. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. 2s. 6d. net.)

"Studies in Biblical and Semitic Symbolism." By M. H. Farbridge, M.A. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"The Romance of Excavation." By David Masters. (London: The Bodley Head. 6s. 6d. net.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Regeneration of Austria.

If the League of Nations owing to a series of unfortunate circumstances has so far not promised to fulfil the high hopes based upon it, it has at any rate one outstanding achievement to its credit in the successful work it has carried out in the reconstruction of Austria. The financial rehabilitation of that country through the League was dealt with in a recent speech before the Assembly of the League by Sir Henry Strakosch, whose remarks on the subject merit general attention, for the problems that are well on the way to being solved in Austria are the problems of many other countries in Europe to-day, and the mistakes that were made in Austria are still being perpetrated elsewhere despite the dictums laid down at the now far-off Brussels Financial Conference.

The Essentials for Reconstruction.

Sir Henry declared that he conceived the lesson to be learnt from the Austrian achievement and its significance in relation to the general question of the restoration of Europe is broadly that it has afforded proof that, given an assurance of internal and external peace and ordered conditions, the internal economy of a country can be made to function satisfactorily even if that country has to go through a difficult process of adjusting itself to entirely new political conditions. He thought that the example of Austria should kill the fallacious notions as to the origin of currency depreciation, and the remedies to be applied to it, and in this connection he referred to the many and varied exchange regulations that still make their appearance. Sir Henry further explained the overwhelming importance of confidence as shown in the case of Austria. The Austrian experiment, he declared, has shown that while foreign credits are necessary, the really essential and fundamental part of reconstruction is the restoration of confidence. The success of the Austrian loan operations illustrates this point.

More Enterprise Required.

It would seem obvious that nothing but sustained enterprise in good and bad times alike will safeguard the interests of British trade, but it is unfortunately only too evident that many manufacturers have yet to learn this elementary truth. Because business is for a variety of reasons hard to obtain they have been showing an unwillingness to spend money on the various forms of publicity of which they are only too ready to avail themselves in normal times, not realising that in so doing they are simply giving an opening to astute trade rivals. There is nothing more certain than that the memory of buyers must constantly be assisted if they are to keep in mind a particular commodity. We had an instance in this country only recently of the results of the failure to carry on a consistent advertising campaign. The consequences of inadequate publicity in overseas markets are much more certain. It is not merely in markets where our traders have not obtained a sound footing, but where the future outlook is promising, that this shortcoming is in evidence. Even in a market so important—one might add so vitally essential—to this country as India firms have for some time been curtailing their expenditure on publicity. This is not economy in any sense of the term, and cannot be justified on any grounds, and I am afraid that this utterly mistaken policy, unless swiftly abandoned, may have very serious consequences for our trade.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway Position.

Although the report of the Ottoman railway from Smyrna to Aidin for the half-year ended June 30 (which is given in another column) only gives the accounts for the working of the railway up to December 31 last, the figures submitted indicate clearly the improvement in the situation. The entire system was in operation, and the gross earnings amounted to £217,706 as against £167,105. There was a profit on working of £60,975, and the company had a debit balance to reserve account at June 30 of £894,511, which is subject, of course, to the deduction of whatever profit may have been made during that half-year. Reference is made in the report to the agreement arrived at in June between Mr. Alwyn Parker and the Angora Government, under which the claims of the company for war losses should be settled by August 3, 1924. The Council of Administration express the hope that a settlement will be obtained before that date, so that they will have sufficient information to enable them at an early date to draw up plans regarding any rearrangement of the capital of the railway that may be considered necessary. For the experience of the company since 1914, and, in particular, since the Armistice, it would be difficult to find a parallel. It is now possible to hope that at long last the company will be able to devote its attention to the work of reconstruction and development. Given freedom from disturbances, the future of the line should be assured, for the region it serves is one of the most important in Turkey, and it should play no unimportant part in connection with the future development of the country.

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE IN THE SUDAN.

The Report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1922 is a document of special interest in view of the increasing importance that promises to attach to the Sudan in the scheme of British Imperial affairs. The following extracts are taken from various sections of the Report.

Finance.

General Situation.—Financial conditions in the Sudan during 1922 have been fairly satisfactory, though less so than was anticipated when the budget was framed, owing to world-wide depression in trade which was already felt in the Sudan in 1921, but appeared to take fuller effect in 1922. Conditions in Europe are still such as to give little encouragement for hopes of any immediate and general recovery. As regards the special conditions in the Sudan, the rains of 1921, though somewhat unevenly distributed, were generally good and the Nile flood high, so that with the surplus from previous years the country had ample stocks of dura and other agricultural produce. On the other hand, the steady fall in the prices of dura and cattle has, for the time being, substantially diminished the purchasing power of the population in general, and made it difficult in certain districts to collect taxes in cash. As a set-off against the reduction in the livestock trade, which has been very considerable, the year was favourable for gum; cotton showed a decrease both in quantity and value, and dura, a substantial increase in quantity and a slight increase in value. Sesame exports were up to the average, but substantially less both in quantity and value than for 1921. While the general trend of prices and the depression in trade were adversely affecting the purchasing power of the people as noted above, special circumstances, such as the suspension of work on the White Nile Dam by the Egyptian Government and the restriction of expenditure on the Gezira irrigation scheme by the Sudan Government, operated in the same direction. As a result, although the value of the exports for 1922, chiefly owing to the favourable gum figures and the good rains of 1921 referred to above, did not fall much below that of 1921, the value of imports has declined from £E. 5,806,000 in 1921 to £E. 4,252,890 in 1922.

Future Prospects.—The outlook for the immediate future is more encouraging. Good rains fell again in the autumn of 1922, while the resumption of work on the Gezira irrigation scheme under the contract placed in September with Messrs. S. Pearson and Co., and the commencement of the extension of the Sudan railway system to Kassala, may be expected to give a substantial impetus to trade.

The Budget for 1923.

In the Budget estimates for 1923 Revenue and Expenditure balanced at £E. 3,465,000, as compared with £E. 3,880,000, the figure in the 1922 Budget. The approximate final results for 1922 are given at: Revenue, £E. 3,484,500; Expenditure, £E. 3,482,834.

The estimated revenue and expenditure for 1923 is, therefore, less than that estimated in the budget for 1922 by £E. 415,000. As has been indicated above in dealing with the actual results for 1922, the fall in the anticipated revenue is almost entirely accounted for by reduced estimates for railway earnings. Although some revival in trade may be looked for in 1923, it has not been thought prudent to budget for any higher figures inasmuch as the Government is following the policy of reducing railway rates, where possible, in order to encourage traffic. As against this reduction in revenue it is hoped that expenditure may be considerably reduced owing to lower costs. On the item of coal, for example, it has been possible to reduce the provision from £E. 370,000 made in the budget for 1922 to £E. 175,000 for 1923. In addition to reductions in expenditure on allowances and services due to lower prices such as noted above, the most rigid economy has been exercised in framing the budget for 1923. Existing appointments involving an expenditure of about £E. 73,000 have been suppressed. Further, the temporary gratuity on account of high cost of living, which was reduced in 1922, has been further cut down for 1923 from 25 per cent. to 15 per cent. in the case of officials' salaries, and from 40 per cent. to 20 per cent. in the case of pensioners. This has resulted in a reduction of £E. 180,636 in respect of this service, *i.e.*, from £E. 367,636 to £E. 187,000. As against the main reasons necessitating these and future economies, the following special factors affecting the financial situation must be noted:—

(*a*) The Government is faced with a steadily increasing expenditure in respect of personnel and pensions, due to the automatic increases in rates of salaries, and to the normal increase in the number of those in receipt of pensions. The present administration has not been in existence long enough for the "peak figure" to have been reached yet under either heading. The Government is now carefully examining its future liabilities in respect of these items.

(*b*) Another factor which will prejudicially affect the revenue in future years is that the Egyptian Government has decided to withdraw the contribution of £E. 23,000 per annum, which it previously made to the repression of slave trade in the Sudan.

(*c*) Apart from the above—and this must be the main pre-occupation of the Government for the next few years—provision must be made against its liabilities in respect of the loans issued for the Gezira irrigation scheme. Interest on the loans may very possibly exceed revenue from the scheme during the first years, and it is essential to build up a cash reserve against this contingency. The search for economies is therefore being vigorously continued. It is in this direction rather than in any increase of taxation that the Government must look for improving its financial position.

Subject to this the future is full of hopes. A special effort is needed to prepare for meeting the special strain of the next few years. Once this has been taken up and the schemes in respect of which the expenditure has been undertaken are bearing fruit a new era of expansion and prosperity should open up for the country.

(*To be continued.*)

Bank of Athens.—Interim dividend for the current year of five drachmae on the ordinary shares (coupon No. 45), free of all Greek taxes, payable at the current rate of exchange on September 12. After the distribution there remains a balance of 9,914,140 drachmae to the credit of the profit and loss account, which the directors have decided to carry forward to the second half-year of 1923. The dividend a year ago was the same, and 9,528,867 drachmae was carried forward.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

LIFE-SAVING APPLIANCES ON LINERS.

One of the most interesting papers read at Olympia in connection with the Shipping Exhibition was one on "Life-Saving Appliances on Large Passenger Vessels," by Mr. Ernest W. Blocksidge, M.I.N.A. In view of the absorbing interest that the subject has for all who go down to the sea in ships, we reproduce here a summary of Mr. Blocksidge's address :—

During a period of seventy years legislation dealing with the equipment of large passenger vessels with life-saving appliances had been of a gradual character. The Titanic disaster led to panic regulations in 1914, and the application of these had become a question of increasing importance to the shipowner and of extreme difficulty to the naval architect. The experience gained under the present rule of a seat in a lifeboat for every person on board, said Mr. Blocksidge, makes it very doubtful whether this modern legislation has been effectual to any appreciable degree. In the light of accumulated evidence from recent casualties at sea, even the most ardent advocates of the "boats for all" policy must admit that in the event of sudden emergency, the accommodation provided in the lifeboats and the apparatus installed for launching them overboard cannot possibly be used to their fullest extent.

It is generally agreed that the comprehensive investigations made by the various committees appointed by the Board of Trade during the past ten years have, on the one hand, increased the efficiency of the details of the life-saving equipment on board cargo and passenger vessels; but, on the other hand, the constant changes created by new regulations have an unsettling effect on the shipbuilding industry, and unless the rules which aim at securing a higher standard for safety of life at sea receive international acceptance, British shipowners are placed at a disadvantage in foreign competition.

The Launching Problem.

The types and sizes of vessels vary, and may affect the general question of stowage of the life-saving appliances, but there is one feature of the subject which is applicable to all, and that is the question of the time required after casualty to abandon ship. It is very readily observed from investigations into the details of casualties to passenger vessels at sea that the number of lives saved is governed by the limit of time available for the operation of transferring the persons from the vessel to the lifeboats, and lowering them from the launching apparatus or davits to the water. The efficiency of any system of "boat stowage" depends mainly on the number of lifeboats which can be stowed under and attached to davits at the ship's sides, and are available for launching overboard immediately the necessity arises. Boats "stacked" in numbers on the deck of a vessel give the passenger a false sense of security. Even if means are provided for transporting the inboard boats to the ship's sides by the use of a duplicated system of davits, rails, or carriages, it is evident that a reasonable time limit would not permit of these lifeboats being loaded and launched overboard in an emergency. Under these conditions—which are not uncommon in large passenger vessels—the demand for "boats for all" not only becomes a fallacy, but is a positive danger to the passenger. The important feature to keep in view in designing a satisfactory boat stowage is not so much the number of boats that can be carried as the number of launching or embarking stations which can be utilised within a reasonable limit of time. From the available information in the possession of the Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee and the Marine Department of the Board of Trade, it is considered that all foreign-going passenger vessels should be installed with life-saving appliances in such a manner as to enable all the apparatus to be safely launched within a time limit of thirty minutes from the moment the captain of a vessel gives his order to launch the lifeboats.

Life-Rafts.

It has now been fully realised that the limit of time available for launching the life-saving equipment is such that special consideration should be given to the question of providing a light type of apparatus which is easily transferred to the water, and will give temporary support to persons in the water until the arrival of assistance. The present regulations controlling the equipment of vessels with life-saving appliances permit the use of buoyant apparatus only in the case of home-trade vessels which carry a number of passengers in excess of the accommodation provided in the statutory number of lifeboats laid down by the rules. Life-saving apparatus for these additional passengers is then made up by the provision of light buoyant apparatus or buoyant deck-seats. The Board of Trade in December, 1919, obtained a very important expression of opinion from shipmasters representing the leading shipping lines in this country as to their experience of the relative value of boats and rafts, and the replies indicated a general desire for a suitable combination of both to be installed on passenger vessels. It was the considered opinion of the sub-committee on buoyant apparatus, expressed in the recent report of the Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee, that the conditions imposed by the present rules for the construction of liferafts are incompatible. Rafts of sufficient strength to be thrown from the vessel's deck, and strong enough to carry persons out of the water rather than supporting them in the water, could not, in their opinion, be handled without mechanical appliances. Under the conditions which generally obtain in an emergency it was considered that the heavy type of raft as at present approved by the Board of Trade would be a source of danger rather than one of safety. The apparatus recommended by the committee is that which can be easily handled and thrown, if necessary, from the deck to the water. Sufficient buoyancy should be provided to enable a weight of 32 lbs. to be supported in the water for each person the apparatus is certified to carry. The quality of handiness was considered to be of the greatest importance, and should not be sacrificed in pursuit of other advantages. The practical advantages of the light form of liferaft are that it can be easily stowed for immediate use when the limit of time is not sufficient to enable all the boats under davits being launched successfully, and should a vessel take a heavy list after casualty the light form of raft or buoyant apparatus can be used from either side of the ship.

The Committee's Recommendations.

The Merchant Shipping Advisory Committee has now formulated definite recommendations for adoption by the Board of Trade, whereby all foreign-going passenger vessels should be equipped with

(Continued on page 307.)

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THE REVIVAL OF TRADE WITH RUSSIA?

In view of the fact that there can never be a complete return to normal trade conditions in the world until Russia takes her proper place once more in the economic scheme of things, any sign of improvement in the financial and commercial conditions of that country will be watched with close interest. Certainly the rehabilitation of South Russia will play an important part in the reconstruction of the Near and Middle East. In this connection, therefore, attention may here be called to the following passage in a report recently issued by Messrs. Samuel Montagu and Co. :—

News of an encouraging nature has been received as to the installation and working of the new currency system in Russia, based upon a unit called the *chervonetz*, by which a measure of stability is expected to be attained that will enable values to be fixed sufficiently for import and export trade to be transacted with some degree of ease. A party of business men representing important firms here has lately returned from visiting that country and investigating the prospects of trade. One member, Mr. F. L. Baldwin, thus comments upon what they observed. It will be noted that his remarks imply the fundamental truth that no currency stability can be achieved without taxation adequate to the needs of a country's budget :—

"The thing that struck us all most, without exception, was the extraordinary ability with which they are struggling with the financial situation. Their policy, as explained to us by members of the Government, is to make their Budget balance, to stabilise their currency, and to preserve a favourable trade balance. They are cutting down their expenditure very heavily and pushing up their taxes. In fact, they fear they have put their taxes up too high, and that they may have to bring them down again. Income-tax ranges from 2½ per cent. to 20 per cent., and they have placed a tax of about 3 per cent. on the turnover of the business community, which seems to be the equivalent of our corporation profits tax. It is Krassin's job to see that they keep a favourable trade balance and that their imports on no account exceed their exports. They are trying to establish their currency on a *chervonetz* basis. A *chervonetz* is the equivalent of our pound. They are backing the new currency by gold or gold securities up to 25 per cent., and by other securities, such as short-term bills, for the remainder. The law is that no more of these *chervonetz* shall be issued than can be backed in this way. We were told, and I have no reason to doubt it, that this new currency represents about two-thirds of their total currency. While we were there the value of the rouble was falling all the time as against the *chervonetz*. It was a constant remark among us that we only wished the Germans were handling their currency problem as well."

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output.—Week ended September 14: Gemsah, 11 tons (previous week, 8 tons); Hurghada, 2,155 tons (against 2,290 tons).

The P. and O. Company, it is understood, have placed an order with Messrs. Barclay, Curle, and Co. for the construction of two liners, each of 15,000 tons deadweight. The builders are also to supply the engines, which are to be of 11,000 horse-power.

The British Overseas Bank, Ltd., announces that funds for the payment of the coupon October 1, 1923, on the English, French, and American series of the Roumanian Four per Cent. Consolidation Loan, 1922, have been lodged with them by the Roumanian Government.

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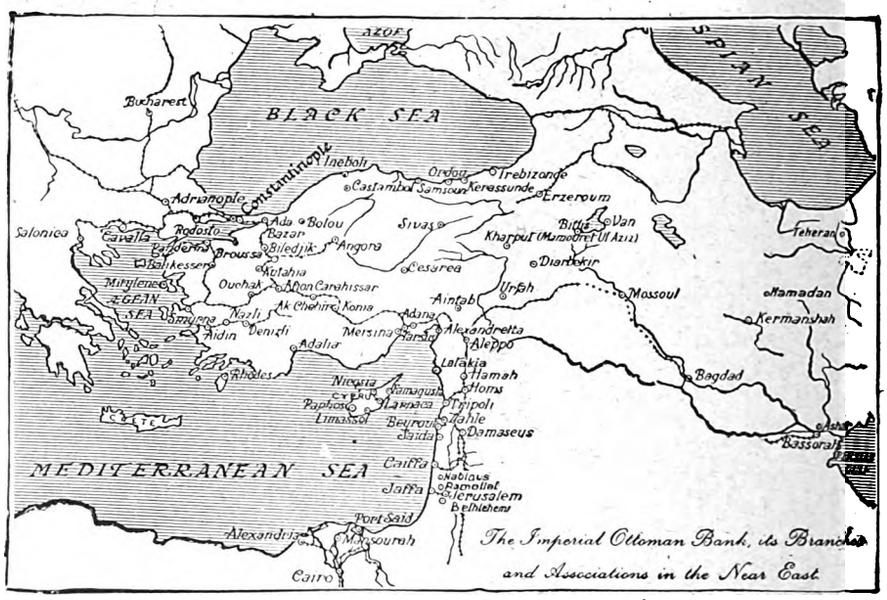

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light rafts or buoyant apparatus to the extent of 25 per cent. of the total number of persons on board. This apparatus is therefore in addition to the present equipment of lifeboat accommodation for all persons on board. It is this additional provision, continued Mr. Blocksidge, which will probably give cause for much discussion among shipowners. The heavy type of liferaft must now be considered as an apparatus which can only be carried on a passenger vessel in such a position that it is clear of the stowage of the boats under davits, and will "float off" the vessel, forming part of the statutory equipment required to make up the full accommodation for passengers which cannot be obtained in the lifeboats under davits at the ship's sides. Recommendations have also been made by the Advisory Committee giving permission for Class 2 lifeboats to be used as the second boat under davits, or to form part of the equipment—as the heavy liferaft—which is to be stowed across the poop or boat deck, making up the additional accommodation not secured in boats at the ship's sides for all persons on board. In this connection may I make an appeal that, when considering the revision of the present rules, the pontoon lifeboat of Classes 1C, 2C, and 2B should not be permitted to form part of the statutory equipment for a passenger vessel unless the hull is fitted with steel water-tight compartments or metal buoyancy air-cases when the lifeboat is constructed of wood. A number of passenger vessels are at present fitted with a type of lifeboat which is dependent for its reserve buoyancy on a system of double wooden planking, and which experience has proved to be useless for the purpose intended.

It is assumed that 100 per cent. represents the efficiency of the equipment when all the lifeboats on board can be successfully launched overboard into the water within a time limit of 30 minutes, and that, with the addition of the proposed 25 per cent. of light buoyant apparatus, the effective value is increased to 125 per cent. In one or two instances large passenger vessels have rearranged their boat stowage so as to carry the full number of lifeboats under davits at the ship's sides. This can be done with boats in double tier or by a system of nesting. Placing one lifeboat inside another keeps down the centre of gravity of top weight, and provides a considerable saving in deck space, but when compared with the ordinary double-tier stowage this system possesses a serious disadvantage, owing to the smaller boat of the two being launched into the water first, thus limiting the available accommodation required in an emergency.

I venture to state that the records of all casualties to vessels at sea show the necessity for immediate action to be taken to supply light rafts to all passenger vessels, and they also prove the statement that it is far more important to secure a system of double-tier boat stowage, together with the assistance of buoyant apparatus which can be launched effectively within a reasonable limit of time, than to rely on the necessity of a crowded boat deck with inboard stowage in order to provide full accommodation for all persons on board, and which cannot be launched within a time limit of 30 minutes. Overcrowding the boat stowage of passenger vessels as a direct result of the present regulations has not increased the efficiency of life-saving equipment when compared with the requirements in operation at the time of the Titanic disaster, if our judgment is to be based on the results from casualties to passenger vessels since the year 1912.

Mr. Blocksidge's Conclusions.

Mr. Blocksidge pointed out that the most efficient mechanism for operating life-saving appliances would be ineffective unless the crew are constantly trained to handle the equipment in an emergency and instructed how to control the passengers. He attached importance to the installation of a system of emergency lighting, arranged to give facility to the boats' crews operating the launching apparatus. Among the conclusions that he submitted for consideration were the following:—

1. The construction of the vessel should be such that the internal arrangement of bulkheads dividing the ship into watertight compartments will secure such reserve of buoyancy as will enable the vessel to remain afloat for a reasonable time after casualty, and thus ensure that, with proper arrangements, all the life-saving equipment can be launched into the water.

2. All passenger vessels should have a system of radio-telegraphy and telephony installed.

3. When it becomes necessary to abandon ship after casualty, the first line of defence should be heavy seagoing lifeboats—but not too heavy to be conveniently man-handled by the boat's crew—stowed under or attached to davits at the ship's sides.

Accommodation should be provided in these lifeboats for all persons on board, or for the greatest number which the length of the vessel will permit to be carried in lifeboats stowed in double tier at the ship's sides.

4. Light buoyant apparatus in excess of the accommodation in lifeboats should be provided to the extent of 25 per cent. of the total number of persons carried on board. This buoyant apparatus should be such as to be man-handled easily and thrown from the deck to the water on either side of the vessel, and should be stowed so as to be always available in emergency.

In order to maintain a reasonable standard for safety of life at sea, would it not be advisable to limit the number of persons to that which can be accommodated in lifeboats under davits at the ship's sides or make up the shortage with buoyant apparatus with an addition of 25 per cent. of the total complement in every case?

6. The important feature associated with boat stowage is to provide the greatest number of embarking stations the length of the vessel will admit, rather than to confine the transport of passengers, when abandoning ship, to a small number of such stations.

7. That among the lifeboats should be one or more motor-boats, installed with wireless telegraphy and equipped with small searchlights.

PHŒNIX OIL AND TRANSPORT CO.

The progress report of the Phœnix Oil and Transport Co., Ltd., and allied companies for August shows that the total crude oil production was 11,047 tons and the throughput of the refinery 7,744 tons. The corresponding figures for July were 7,712 tons and 5,305 tons respectively.

The report states that well No. 6 Moreni and Orion well No. 550 were brought into production on August 10. The latter was, unfortunately, subsequently shut down owing to a fire occurring, but the necessary repairs have now been made.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Smyrna-Aidin Railway.

The report of the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Railway from Smyrna to Aidin states that the accounts now presented are for the half-year to June 30 last, but they only include those from Smyrna up to December 31, 1922, it having been found impossible to prepare later accounts for inclusion, owing to the vast amount of work entailed in putting matters in order after the chaos occasioned by the war and the subsequent difficulty experienced in obtaining permits for the return of the staff.

At the request of the Turkish authorities, the company's representative, Mr. Alwyn Parker, C.B., C.M.G., proceeded to Angora in June last, and was able, after long negotiations with the Angora Government, to conclude an agreement whereby the accounts in connection with the seizure and working of the railway by the Turkish Government from December 1, 1914, up to February, 1919, and all the claims of the company for losses incurred during that period, will be examined by experts of the two parties, and, if necessary, submitted to arbitration. The examination of accounts and claims must be concluded by January 3, 1924, and should agreement not have been reached by February 3, 1924, the matter will then go before arbitrators, and it is stipulated that these latter shall have a period of three months to arrive at a decision. Should further disagreement ensue the matter will be entrusted to an umpire for final decision within a further period of three months. Thus these matters should be settled by August 3, 1924, at latest, but the Council are hopeful it may be possible to arrive at an agreement before that date, so that delay in obtaining definite information regarding the nature and method of compensation likely to be forthcoming may be obviated and the council placed in possession of sufficient information to enable them to formulate plans at an early date respecting any rearrangement of the company's capital that may be considered necessary.

The Council states that a considerable portion of the amount still owed to the company by the Greek Government in respect of traffic accounts, etc., still remains unpaid, despite the repeated demands that have been made and the constant and urgent representations that have been made to His Majesty's Foreign Office.

As regards the damage done to the company's property by the Greek military forces during their period of occupation, the Treaty of Peace recently concluded provides that the Greek Government shall pay compensation for losses and damage resulting from the acts of Greek armies or administrative authorities after June 1, 1921, other than losses and damage due to acts of war in the zone of active military operations. The payment of such damage and losses is to be effected by means of annuities spread over a period of forty years. A statement is being prepared setting forth the company's claims in this respect, and this will be submitted in due course to the proper authorities. It should be noted that the company's property was severely damaged during the Greek military operations prior to June, 1921, and it is not clear to the Council why, under the Treaty, claims against Greece are confined to the period subsequent to that date, or why damage and losses due to acts of war in the zone of active military operations are excluded. On these grounds, and on account of the very serious losses suffered by the company during the Great War, the Council have strongly pressed the Foreign Office to use their influence in order that the company, whose stockholders so largely consist of British subjects, may be allowed to participate in the sterling fund available for the benefit of Allied subjects.

The Council are glad to be able to state that now, following on Mr. Parker's negotiations at Angora, certain of the officials of the company have returned to Smyrna and are settling down to their duties under the difficult conditions imposed by the devastation and ruin that exists in Smyrna and in the districts along the railway. As foreshadowed in the last half-yearly report, meetings of the share and debenture holders were held in June last, at which resolutions were passed deferring the payment of interest on the 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. debenture stocks until twelve months after the half-yearly due date which shall first occur after the ratification of the Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and Turkey. The rebuilding of the important Meander Bridge at Seraikeuy is proceeding, and all the necessary material has now been shipped from this country. Major R. E. T. Money-Shewan, till lately deputy general manager, has been appointed general manager as from July 1 last. The net revenue account shows a debit balance at June 30 last (excluding profit on working for the half-year) of £894,510.

The report of the general manager gives the approximate gross earnings as £217,706, as compared with £167,105 in the corresponding period of 1922. Of this about £52,000, or nearly 25 per cent. of the whole, represents military traffic, for which no payment has been received. The total outstandings on Turkish military remaining unpaid now approximate £83,000. The earnings from coaching traffic show an increase of 51 per cent. and from goods traffic of 33 per cent. over the first half of 1922. Working expenses totalled £124,433, against £121,142, and formed 57.16 per cent. of the gross earnings. The chief increase was on locomotive expenses, owing to the larger quantity of coal consumed.

Tata Iron and Steel.

A cable from the Tata Iron and Steel Co. in Bombay states that the accounts for the year to March 30 last show a profit of approximately Rs.22,00,000, after deducting interest on debentures and loans and including Rs.1,44,702 brought in. For the period of nine months to March 31, 1922, there was a profit of Rs.39,37,572. It is further stated that the company has recovered from the effects of the strike, production for the first three months of the present year being much in excess of that for the first quarter of last year. Pig-iron output was 95,750 tons, against 67,769 tons, and of finished steel 36,274 tons against 31,470 tons. In addition, the Government of India has agreed to a revision of the price for steel rails, which will give an increase of Rs.25 per ton over the contract figure.

Suez Oil Co.

The directors of the Suez Oil Co. announce that they are now in negotiation for the acquisition of an important interest in the Consolidated Oilfields of India, in addition to securing drilling rights over a portion of that company's oil concession in the Kundal oilfield of India. In the event of those negotiations being satisfactorily concluded, full information, together with reports, etc., will be sent to shareholders.

Eastern Bank.—Interim dividend for the current year of 4s. a share, less tax, payable on October 1. The dividend a year ago was the same.

Eastern Telegraph.—Second quarterly interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the ordinary stock, free of tax, in respect of profits for the year ending December 31, payable on October 15. The dividend a year ago was the same.

Barsi Light Railway.—Final dividend of 3 per cent., together with a bonus of 4 per cent. (14s. per share in all), making a total distribution of 12 per cent. for the year to March 31. The distributions a year ago were the same, making 12 per cent. for the year 1921-22.

Travancore Tea Estates.—Interim dividend of 10 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares on account of the year to September 30, payable September 29. No interim distribution was made a year ago.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97⅝
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	240—245
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	410-430
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.67-25.70
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 3/16-1.4 7/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.15-94.25
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	980-1,000
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 3/16-1.4 7/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	775-795
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.54⅛-4.54⅜
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	78.30—78.35
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	103
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450-490
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,350,000*

* Nominal.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm and Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 7, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has been rather firm and very active. The low American Bureau condition for August has stimulated the activity witnessed these last two weeks, and has induced confidence in the market. The arrivals from up-country are as yet too small to have any effect on the market. An American crop of about 10,788,000 bales is forecasted; if it should turn out to be so small it would be a most serious matter and bound to draw spinners' attention to other growths, and more especially to Egyptians. The demand from abroad has this week been very much more active than has been the case for a long time. Reports from the leading textile centres are more encouraging, but unfortunately the terrible catastrophe which has befallen Japan must impede all commerce there, and their takings of cotton may be substantially reduced during the coming season. The difference between Sakellaridis and Ashmouni has further narrowed owing to speculative straddles, and the tendency is for a still further narrowing. The Government have not committed themselves to any purchases during the week, and we do not think that they will intervene any further, as conditions have now changed and the market is quite capable of supporting itself. This week's receipts amount to 50,552 krs., against exports 51,895 krs.; the stock stands at 818,275 krs.

Spot.—Minet-el-Bassal has been more active this week, and a better demand from abroad has been experienced. Sales amount to about 9,500 B/s, of which we estimate 5,300 B/s Sakellaridis and 4,200 B/s Uppers. Uppers are now coming down in considerable quantities, and the first lots of Sakellaridis will be here next week, but there will be no real movement in Sakellaridis till next month. From the cotton we have seen, we venture to think that the quality of this year's Upper Egypt cotton will be quite good.

Sakellaridis.—All styles have been dealt in, with medium qualities predominating, and the low grades in poor request. Good grade really extra staple cotton is at present very hard to find. Prices for spot against contracts are without much change.

Uppers.—Most of the demand has been for good qualities, but all styles have been dealt in. The spot parities for high grades are considerably easier, and for the lower grades are somewhat cheaper than last week. Under the pressure of new crop arrivals the prices of the good grades look quite reasonable at present.

Brown and White are neglected, and nothing has been done. Quotations of spot are nominal and considerably easier than last week.

The crop conditions continue to be fairly favourable. In Lower Egypt a delay in the maturity of about 10 to 15 days is apparent in many districts, but it is not expected to have any serious consequences. Complaints of pink boll worm are not very serious.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for August reads :—

Lower Egypt.—The rather favourable temperature which prevailed during August has helped the ripening of the bolls of the first picking and the satisfactory development of those of the second picking. There has been some fresh damage by pink-worm and boll-worm; the proportion of bolls attacked varies from 10 to 20 per cent., according to districts. Sakellaridis seems to have suffered rather more than other varieties. There have been a few slight fogs, but they have done practically no damage. In spite of the superabundance of water, watering generally has been done on a normal scale. The first picking has commenced in a few early fields, and will become general towards the 10th of the month for varieties other than Sakellaridis, and for this latter variety towards the 25th about ten days later than last year. Present prospects are fairly satisfactory.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Temperature was rather cool during August; nevertheless, the plant has made good progress. Unimportant damage by pink and boll worm has been reported. First picking has commenced and will become general in a few days. Prospects are good.

The report of the Ministry of Agriculture for August states :—The weather was favourable during the month under review, and the water supply was ample. A certain amount of boll shedding due to overwatering is reported. Bolls are opening in early sown fields almost everywhere. Picking is already taking place in basin lands of Upper Egypt. In other places it is expected to begin towards the middle of September. Boll worm attacks seem to be no worse than last year. Slight attacks of aphis and wilt have been reported from most provinces. The general condition of the crop is the same as last month.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

A Marked Improvement.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, of Liverpool, report as follows for the week ending September 12 :—

Egyptian Futures.—The past week has shown a great improvement in the Egyptian futures market, prices advancing over a penny since our last report. Owing to the large orders which have lately appeared, trading has naturally been much facilitated with the easing of the political crisis between Italy and Greece, and the more reassuring reports that have been received concerning the disaster in Japan. The "bullish" sentiments aroused by the recent Bureau report were allowed full scope, and buying orders flowed in freely from all parts, the Continent especially being to the fore on any sign of a setback. The Alexandria market has shown great strength, speculators operating freely on rumours of American buying. The Upper (October) has particularly felt the pressure, and since last week has narrowed 100 points with the Sakel (November) contract.

In spite of the substantial advance we have recorded, the Egyptian market has not kept pace with the American, and as we write the straddle difference has narrowed 30 points on the week, the chief cause of this being some heavy Continental, and straddle selling against American, of distant positions, which has made its appearance during the last two days.

Contrary to what is generally expected after such a rapid rise as we have recently experienced, there has been no violent reaction up to date. As we write, the market shows signs of easing off slightly, but trade reports continue to be good, and the crop estimate in America shows an inclination to shrink still further. At the moment, we see no inducement to lean towards the "Bear" side.

Egyptian Spot.—A sudden wave of "bullish" sentiment has swept over the whole cotton world since our last report was published. The uncertainty caused by the foreign political crisis and the Japanese earthquake disaster has been largely removed, and the effect in America seems to have been like the removing of a safety valve. All markets have followed, to a greater or lesser degree, the lead given by New York, and in Alexandria rumours that the U.S.A. had commenced to purchase Uppers caused some wild speculation there. In Liverpool, spot prices advanced with great rapidity, the suddenness of the rise finding many spinners totally unprepared and causing quite a scramble for certain classes of cotton by those caught short. It has been practically impossible this week to buy F.G.F. Sakellaridis at anything under 100 on November contracts, and the lower grades apparently do not exist here. Uppers have been in very keen request, and the market has literally been swept bare. There are a few lots still to be obtained, but the lowest price asked to-day was 18·00d. (or 100 on November contracts) and in some cases the absurd price of "250 on" was quoted! A very fair enquiry continues for low cottons from about 7d. to 12d., and more business has lately taken place in these varieties.

The demand for the better grades of Sakellaridis, which recently had shown improvement, has received a setback, owing to the high prices now asked. Tokar Sakellaridis is also temporarily out of the picture for the same reason, but in the better known, and more widely used, Sudan Sakellaridis a fair business has taken place, holders being willing, apparently, to meet the demand, and so liquidate some of their rather heavy stocks before the market becomes flooded with new crop Sakellaridis.

Trade reports from Manchester have maintained a good tone, and the scarcity of the bread-and-butter varieties on the spot in Liverpool has produced more c.i.f business than we have witnessed for some time. Prompt and early October shipment have chiefly been asked for.

On the whole, the rise has had the effect of rather checking spot business for the moment, but it has certainly brought home the position of cotton to many who previously were regarding the situation through dimmed spectacles. A significant feature is that so far no serious reaction has occurred, although this evening, certainly, there does appear to be a tendency for prices to ease somewhat.

Forwardings to spinners for week ending 7th inst., 6,684 bales.

Total sales, 2,800 bales, and 1,500 bales Sudan.

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Quotations of Sakel are raised 115 points for Fair to F.G.F.; 105 points for Good and Fine, and 80 points for Extra Fine. Brown and Uppers are 75 points higher on the week.

Fully Good Fair Sakellaridis to-day 17·95d., as compared with 16·80d. last Wednesday.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

A Considerable Improvement.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 15 states:—

The better tone mentioned last week has continued, and in fact has strengthened. The effects of the shortage of supplies in overseas markets appears at last to be felt, and it is hoped that buyers are abandoning the waiting policy which has for so long characterised their attitude. More actual business has been done and prices are better, although perhaps in most cases not yet remunerative on the basis of to-day's raw cotton values. For goods manufactured during the past two or three weeks sellers can of course accept prices which look cheap, and it remains to be seen whether the present movement will continue when supplies of this character are no longer available.

Yarn.—There has been greater activity in this section than for a long time past, and buying seems to have been of a general character. Stocks on hand have thus been reduced, and a more hopeful feeling exists. Both for Egyptian and American yarn demand has been fairly strong, and prices are harder, though probably not fully reflecting the rise in the staple. Shipments for the month of August amounted to 12,802,800 lb., as compared with 9,514,400 lb. in July and 15,408,500 lb. in August last year.

Cloth.—A more general inquiry has been experienced, and, in spite of the increased prices which are now being asked, more business has been booked. India has been prominent as a buyer of fancies, and China is reported to have placed some acceptable orders. Egypt and South America are mentioned in connection with standard lines. Shipments last month amounted to 329,945,600 sq. yds., against 316,083,600 sq. yds. in the previous month and 377,985,000 sq. yds. in August last year.

Raw Cotton.—Prices have risen 117 points on the week and closed steady. "Spot" sales have been larger than for a considerable time past. The stocks of American cotton held in Liverpool are exceedingly small, and any active demand for immediate delivery is quickly reflected in quotations. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 17.39; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 17.95.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Bulgaria.

H.M. Legation at Sofia reports that the Bulgarian State Railways are desirous of receiving tenders for the supply of 500 tons of creosote to the approximate value of 3,500,000 leva. A public adjudication of tenders will be held on September 28.

Applications from British firms for further particulars should be addressed to the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, London, S.W.1. (Reference D.O.T. 11456/F.E./C.C./2.)

BRITISH CATALOGUES FOR TURKEY.

The Commercial Secretary at Constantinople reports that on the forthcoming transfer of the Commercial Secretariat to the Consular Residence, there will be increased accommodation and facilities for the display of British trade catalogues. Firms desiring to have their catalogues or other literature displayed at the Consular Residence should forward them, postage fully paid, to "The Commercial Secretary, British Consular Residence, Galata, Constantinople." The Commercial Secretary adds that many of the trade directories and reference books in his office are now out of date, and that he would be glad to receive current issues from those firms who make a practice of distributing complimentary copies of their publications.

BULGARIAN LOAN COUPON PAYMENT.

The Bulgarian Government is prepared to pay to British bondholders Coupon No. 42 of the Five per Cent. Gold Loan of 1902 maturing on September 14, 1923, at francs (French) 12.50 each, and the bonds drawn for redemption on that date at francs (French) 500 each.

Holders of bonds which have been in British ownership since August 1, 1914, who are desirous of availing themselves of the offer thus made by the Bulgarian Government, should present the above-mentioned coupons and drawn bonds (to which all coupons due after the date of redemption must remain attached) for payment at the counting house of Messrs. Stern Brothers, 6, Angel Court, E.C.2. The amount due in French francs will be paid in sterling at the sight rate of exchange on Paris on the day of presentation, less tax.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

The strike on the Ottoman-Aidin Railway has been settled.

Messrs. Sanderson and Co. estimate the 1923 Northern Indian tea crop at 307,000,000 lbs.

A Central Hebrew Farmers' Union is to be established in Palestine, with headquarters in Petach Tikvah.

The Bank of England is prepared to receive the coupons due October 1 on bonds of the Greek Guaranteed Two and a-Half per Cent. Gold Loan of 1898.

No damage was done to the property of the Calcutta Tramways Company by the earthquake disturbance which occurred in Calcutta on September 10.

The Anglo-Afghan Trade Convention, which was signed in Kabul on June 5, has been ratified, and consequently entered into force with effect from August 4.

By the delivery to Yugoslavia of three thousand horses, 1,468 head of cattle, and five thousand sheep, Hungary has now fulfilled its obligations under the Treaty of Trianon.

The Ottoman Public Debt Administration of Palestine has wound up its affairs as a separate administration, and will now be taken over by the Department of Customs and Ports.

Speaking at Nijni Novgorod Fair, the chairman of the Persian Trade Bureau, Jafar Khan, having eulogised the Soviet diplomatist Shumiatsky, is reported to have said: "We know which are our friends and which are our foes in Persia. To the British we say, 'Leave us alone.'"

The Yugoslav Minister of Finance, it is announced, in order to insure the proper collection of taxes, and in view of the fluctuations to which the dinar is subject in relation to foreign currencies, has fixed the following rates, among others, for the conversion into dinars of accounts in gold or foreign currencies to remain in force until December 30, 1923: £1, 410 dinars; $1, 90 dinars; £T.1, 378 dinars; a gold 20-franc piece, 335 dinars.

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THE SMYRNA SULTANA MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ending September 1:—

The estimated arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are put at 3,820 tons, as compared with 4,755 tons for the corresponding period in 1922. Sales to date are estimated at 2,720 tons, as compared with 3,655 tons at this time last year. Total shipments to the United Kingdom to date are 1,305 (1,610) tons, to the Continent 180 (1,500) tons, and to the U.S.A., Canada, and elsewhere 275 (140) tons, the figures in brackets being the corresponding totals last year.

Market Conditions.—The collapse in exchange to round about 760 pts. per £ sterling on Monday from the level of 880 in the early part of the previous week affected the volume of business. Purchases in the early part of the week were on a reduced scale, and prices in local currency marked some decline, which, however, did not counterbalance the advance to the extent that adverse exchanges affected quotations in foreign currencies. Towards the close of the week exchanges improved and, with the concessions made by sellers in local currency, quotations on balance showed a net decline of about 2s. per cwt. from previous week's closing level. The undertone on the market inclines to firmness, and yet conditions are very uncertain, owing to the political horizon being once more obscured by Greco-Italian differences.

Labour unrest is also becoming an acute question. A strike on the Aidin Railway was declared at midnight of August 31, resulting in a complete cessation in all arrivals of fruit from that district. The fig districts are exclusively tapped by the Aidin Railway, and no arrivals have reached market since August 30. For want of figs, packers have been obliged to close down their packing establishments. No agreement has yet been reached between the strikers and the railway authorities, although negotiations for a settlement are being carried on. Strikes are pending in all industrial lines. Ultimatums conveying the labourers' terms expire to-night.

A close study of the course of sultana shipments will be instructive to both U.K. and Continental merchants. They are marked by a material reduction in unsold consignments as compared with former years. The bulk of the fruit coming forward represents deliveries against sales, and shippers appear to show no disposition to venture on an adventurous policy of consignments. This should tend towards healthier trade conditions. The smaller shipments, by reason of the absence of any great volume of consignments, have forced a low opening level of prices and relatively small quantities of unsold fruit on the principal distributing markets such as London, Liverpool, and Amsterdam should have the effect of stimulating direct purchases.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK IN INDIA.

The following is the report on the agricultural situation to the end of August:—

Rainfall was generally more than sufficient in all provinces except Bengal and Assam, but was unevenly distributed, especially in Madras, Bihar, and Orissa, United Provinces and Burma. In the majority of the provinces the standing crops were affected by the heavy rain and floods. In Bengal the area damaged was about ten square miles. Relief measures are being undertaken. In Lower Burma abnormal rainfall caused floods, and large areas of cultivation were swept away in Bassein district. More rain is wanted in parts of the dry zone. Irregularity of rainfall in Bengal has seriously delayed the transplanting of winter rice, and similar conditions are affecting the steeping of jute, which is also being damaged by insects in parts of West and East Bengal. In Assam want of rain is endangering the main rice crop, and the cotton crop is likely to be poor. The condition of standing crops is otherwise generally good, except in parts of the Circars and the West Coast of Madras, and in Bihar, where drought has affected the winter rice. The supply of food grain is on the whole sufficient. In Bihar and Orissa the price of rice continues to rise, although still below last year's figures. Otherwise prices are practically stationary, or show a tendency to fall. Labour continues to be available, and the condition of the people is satisfactory. Fodder is sufficient, except in parts of Bombay and Madras. The condition of agricultural stock is satisfactory, except in parts of Hyderabad, Rajputana, and the Central Provinces, where cattle disease is reported. On the whole the agricultural outlook is promising.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

MINES IN GREEK WATERS.

The Chamber of Shipping of the United Kingdom has been informed by the Board of Trade that the Foreign Office have received a notification from the Italian Embassy in London to the effect that the waters surrounding the Island of Leros in the Dodecanese 37 deg. 10 min. N. and 26 deg. 50 min. E. are mined up to a distance of three miles from land, and that pilotage has been instituted for vessels which are desirous of reaching the anchorage of the island.

EX-ENEMY VESSELS AND THE STRAITS.

The Commercial Secretary at Constantinople has informed the Department of Overseas Trade that, at the request of the representative in Constantinople of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Acting High Commissioners have decided to raise all restrictive measures imposed on Austrian and Hungarian vessels, but have stipulated, in the case of German vessels, that until the completion of the evacuation of the Allied forces, such vessels are to anchor at Haidar Pasha to await the instructions of the Allied captains of the port, and that they shall be allowed no communication with the port of Constantinople.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, September 26); s.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 6).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Manipur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, September 29); s.s. Matheran for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 11).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 10).

British India Line.—S.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 6); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 12).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Cumming for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 3).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of London (Birkenhead, September 29); s.s. City of Simla (Birkenhead, October 12).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Gourko for Malta and Alexandria (London, October 10).

Moss Line.—S.s. Hatasu for Greek, Levant, and Black Sea ports (Liverpool, September 22).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Flaminian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, and Varna (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mooltan for Bombay (London, October 5); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, September 26); s.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 646—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Fiume Problem.

For the moment the Adriatic barometer promises fair weather. In Italy the fact is attributed to Signor Mussolini's firm stand; in Yugoslavia it is accounted for by the noticeable change in the Italian official attitude. Three weeks ago the solution of the Fiume problem that commended itself to Signor Mussolini was to call Porto Baross and the Delta Yugoslav, but to incorporate them with Fiume under Italian control. Apart from the fact that Yugoslavia would not agree, this arrangement would have spelt commercial ruin to Fiume. Late in the day it seems to have been discovered that the fate of the port was already as good as sealed, and, if the Italian attitude is correctly understood, an attempt is now being made to discover a formula which, while emphasising the Italian political ownership of Fiume, will leave its commercial development in the hands of the Yugoslavs. The project is at least worth a trial; but it remains to be seen whether the Italian Government can bring itself to the necessary measure of self-denial. The story of Fiume hardly reflects credit on Fascism. In the appointment of General Giardino as Governor, we may recognise a desire to clear the administration of the worst aspects of Fascisti terrorism; but there are so far no signs of a liberal-minded policy which would take into consideration the real interests of the town by allowing the population to have a controlling voice in its own destiny. Until that stage is reached the only virtue in any settlement that may be agreed upon will consist in the avoidance of an armed conflict.

The Janina Murders.

The Allied Commission investigating the Janina murders has forwarded its first report to the Conference of Ambassadors in Paris. All the delegates, with the exception of the Italian, are of opinion that the Greek authorities have taken every possible measure to apprehend the assassins. If this view is accepted by the Ambassadors, it will mean that Greece has escaped the penalty of having the whole of the fifty million lire deposited in a Swiss Bank confiscated without reference to the International Court at The Hague. No less important is the finding that the crime was one of vengeance and not political. In other words, the Commission rejects the Italian accusation that the Greek Government or Greek officials were behind the murders. The Italian delegate appears to consider that his country's dignity requires him to dissociate himself from all his colleagues' findings. In so doing he may be safeguarding himself with his countrymen, but he must be cutting a sorry figure in the Commission. To make matters worse, he has been responsible for an attempt to introduce on to Greek territory a detachment of Italian *carabinieri*, fully armed, because he considered his life endangered. Some such anxiety, no doubt, assailed the Italian fleet that bombarded the refugees' quarters in Corfu, but fortunately on the Græco-Albanian frontier Allied delegates were present, and the Japanese Chairman of the Commission was able to reassure the timid Italian officer before grave complications ensued. To the credit of the Italian Government it may be recorded that it has begun the withdrawal of the troops from Corfu before September 27, the date fixed in agreement with the Conference of Ambassadors.

Greek Politics.

Greece has shown more dignity in regard to the Corfu incident than she is able to muster in her political affairs. The saluting of the Allied flags in Phaleron Bay was carried out with the sea-front deserted and with every indication that the Greek people felt the injustice of a penalty that would never have been exacted from a Great Power. Its protest, however, has been a silent and, therefore, a dignified one. It would have been well if the solidarity of the nation in its attitude to the Janina incident could have been maintained in the settlement of its political problems. The attempt made by M. Zaimis to form a reconciliation party, in order to extricate Greece from the deadlock into which her politics have lapsed, has failed, and the veteran politician has again retired from the political arena. His withdrawal leaves the field open to the two sets of extremists—Venizelists and anti-

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Venizelists—whose antagonism has never been more bitter than it is to-day. The Revolutionary Committee can hardly dare to leave the situation in the hands of either of these factions, and is still working to effect a coalition of the more moderate elements. The General Election has been postponed until December 2, and, as M. Zaimis is the only man who is regarded as capable of bridging the gulf between the Venizelists and anti-Venizelists, it is still hoped that he will be induced to come forward again.

Civil Strife in Bulgaria.

It is idle to attempt to disguise the fact that there is serious trouble in Bulgaria. The first reports of revolution were obviously exaggerated, as they would naturally be in view of their origin from neighbouring countries. Clearly, however, there has been a concerted effort at a rising; but it was indifferently organised, and the Government is still master of the situation. The insurgents are labelled with some insistence Communists, and if it be true that they have tried to give the name of "Soviet republic" to every village or town of which they have been able to take temporary possession, the movement may well have derived some of its inspiration and strength from Moscow. In all probability members of the Agrarian Party are also implicated. The success of the *coup d'état* of June 9 was due to its masterly organisation, its rapidity, and the fact that the support of the army had been secured. It remained, however, for the most part, a *bourgeois* or town movement. One of the first acts of the new Government ought to have been to win over to its side, if possible, the bulk of the peasants; but it has had other preoccupations, and may possibly have concentrated too much of its attention on improving the administration instead of consolidating its own position by securing the support of the majority of the Bulgarian people.

Proximus Ardet.

The so-called Communist rising in Bulgaria has, of course, nothing in common with the *komitaji* activities which are causing uneasiness in Serbia. The Yugoslav Government is reported to have included in its recent representations to the Bulgarian Government on the subject of the *komitajis* a reference to the treatment of the Agrarian Party; but it can hardly be supposed that the intention was to identify itself with the standard-bearers in Bulgaria of the Soviet régime. Subsequent negotiations with the Sofia Government seem to have reassured Belgrade, and there were signs of the beginning of more satisfactory relations between the two countries. The danger of the present rising is that it may encourage the *komitajis*, in the belief that the Zankoff Cabinet has its hands full, to renew their activities against the Serbians. In such circumstances it may well be supposed that only very strong representations on the part of the Great Powers will prevent the Yugoslav Government from carrying out its threat to occupy Bulgarian territory. If it were conceivable that the present rising should succeed and result in a Soviet administration in Bulgaria, the Powers responsible for reducing the Bulgarian army to proportions that render it incapable of maintaining order in the country will have done a grave disservice to Europe, and neither military occupation of Bulgarian sources of revenue nor any other method of exploiting the situation will remove the danger spot that the Treaty of Neuilly has introduced into the European body politic.

Indian Extremist Policy.

The proceedings of the "National" Congress at Delhi throw a good deal of light, not, indeed, on the wide field of Indian politics, but on that corner of it which is occupied by the extremist factions. What we see is a handful of sincere visionaries, and many handfuls of men with axes to grind, hopelessly at loggerheads on most questions of practical importance to the country, and hitherto united only by their common hatred of Western ideas and institutions. At the moment they are greatly disheartened, partly by the failure, which is now openly admitted, of the programme of action on which their earlier hopes were based, but still more by the fact that they have begun to waste their hatred on each other, instead of saving it all up for use against the common enemy. A new programme has now been settled, but the internal stresses seem to have been increased rather than diminished in the process, and it is doubtful whether sufficient driving power is left to make it a serious factor in the situation. Unfortunately, the moderate or liberal organisations are largely characterised by a similar lack of energy, and such danger as exists arises rather from moderate weakness than extremist strength.

The Wreckers' Programme.

From the nature of the case, the extremists' programme is almost wholly distructive. They will seek entry to the legislatures, which they formerly affected to ignore, but it is with the declared intention of wrecking them from within. They hope at the same time to paralyse the Administration by what is described as organised civil disobedience, or in practice by hiring ignorant peasants or labourers to break the law—and go to gaol. They threaten to disorganise the economic life of the country by a boycott of British Empire goods, without any active attempt to provide necessary requirements from other sources. It is not difficult to conjecture the kind of action which would be taken by French, or American, or Indian administrators confronted with such threats, but in the circumstances of the moment we prefer the British attitude of allowing the wreckers to work in the open, applying the law only when it is broken. The most interesting question just now is the amount of electoral support which will be accorded to this programme, but on this point there are absolutely no data. In a few weeks' time the electorate will speak, or possibly prefer to remain silent, and the Administration will then know how matters stand.

The Religious Difficulty.

The real trouble in India just now arises from the recrudescence of embittered feelings between Hindus and Moslems, rather than the attitude of any political faction, and the fact is obviously perturbing the minds of moderates as well as extremists. An interesting reference to it was made by Mr. Sen at the recent conference of Liberals at Benares. The speaker condemned absolutely the extremist union of hate, and offered as an alternative the idea of working down to the fundamental unity which lies below the clash of creeds. Such an idea sounds a little fantastic in Europe, where repeated attempts to find what algebraists would call the highest common factor among competing sects have hitherto met with so little practical success, but it is wholly in accordance with the trend of Indian thought, and consequently it may possibly bear fruit. The worst of it is that India contains much crude human nature as well as many lofty thinkers, and at times like the present wild men are more in evidence than philosophers. Mr. Sen has set a good example to the latter class, and if they would only come on to the platform in force, they might do much to alleviate a situation which calls urgently for treatment.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Mr. Baldwin and France.

It is difficult not to be bewildered by the wild frenzies into which the so-called new relations between England and France have during the past week thrown the Press of both countries. Naturally our own journals are a little doubtful of this "re-established cordiality," but they nevertheless seem to accept it as a fact.

Yet nobody knows in the least what our Premier actually said to M. Poincaré or what England's policy in regard to the impending collapse of the Ruhr resistance really is. At the moment it appears that Paris has merely made friends with Mr. Baldwin: more than that is conjecture.

The only long view that I have heard expressed with any consistency embraces the political disruption of Germany, an enforced abandonment of our own claim to reparations, and a subsequent decrease in the hegemony of France in Europe owing to her necessity of borrowing money from us. As the future of Europe, so the holders of this view maintain, is to be with small States, there is no reason that the new Germany should not be dominated by the South Germans—the decentest Germans—once the artificial bond created by Bismarck and others has been destroyed.

Despite the political attractiveness of this view, it is hardly credible that Mr. Baldwin can have adopted it. Without doubt, the fear that has been behind our Government's mind all this anxious time has been the prospect of Germany's commercial disruption—this is what we meant when we talked of the inconsistency of the French, the illegality of the Ruhr occupation, and so on. And, therefore, although, as I have said, nobody knows how completely our Premier has accepted the French Premier's envisaging of the future, it seems at least doubtful whether England officially will not make some attempt to retain the old Germany in the economic system of Europe.

The Government's Position.

In the meantime, the trend of the Government's political stock has been downward. During the last few days, it is true, it hardened a little, but not sufficiently to abate the fears of those who are already thinking of the next elections. Loss of prestige was inevitable, in consideration of the many extraordinarily difficult questions which were handed over unanswered to Mr. Baldwin, but of the Government's loss in popularity there can be no doubt whatever. Rasher heads, indeed, are clamouring for the return of Mr. Lloyd George, and, although one can safely say that this calamity will not overflow our national cup, the fall of this froth at least shows whence the wind is blowing.

As a matter of fact, most thinkers are agreed on, or, rather, resigned to, the probability of a Labour Government the next time; unless miracles happen to decrease considerably the appalling unemployment at home, Labour is bound to romp home.

Emergence of Parties.

Notwithstanding all our national stress, there are to be found and heard fools who can think of nothing better than to lug out from their dusty shelves their cracked and worn records of party cries. As if the very words "Protection" and "Free Trade" meant anything at all to the present generation! The modern citizen knows as well as he knows that Papyrus has gone to America that there is no virtue and no salvation in these fusty and detestable catchwords—that their application can in the nature of things be of but temporary benefit. No opposition on theoretical grounds alone will convince him that outside support should not be accorded to trades like the woollen trade, the leather trade, and the lace trade, and, above all, to agriculture, but exactly how such support should be extended he is content to leave to experts.

It looks, however, as though we were in for a deluge of Protectionist and anti-Protectionist propaganda, a little of which may be read, but most of which will surely be ignored. Already the *Morning Post* and the *Westminster Gazette* are hard at it, but neither of them telling much. If only they would admit that their advice is not divinely inspired, but merely the honest view held by mortal men of England's needs for the present and the immediate future, they might cut some ice; but to push it very nearly under our noses like pre-War party propaganda, or remotely to represent it as eternal verity, is the most futile method of persuasion.

The Theatres.

Less, probably, than at any time since the War, can one legitimately grouse at the hodiernal conditions of our theatres, for at the moment are to be found plenty of plays which please both those who wish to be stimulated and those who look to the stage merely for entertainment. The number of reputable plays is quite considerable: "Magic," for example, "At Mrs. Beam's," "Ambush," "The Likes of Her," and, above all, "Hassan," about which I will perhaps write later—and this last week we have even had Shakespeare ("Cymbeline") brought to the West End. And when, in not quite irrelevant addition, it is recorded that the Chappell "ballad" concerts have ceased, orchestral music being substituted for the presumably unmarketable sugar, one must admit an improvement in our artistic outlook.

That is all very cheering to the soul, and one's pocket (consequently, one's heart) is also relieved by Mr. Charles B. Cochran's resolve to reduce the price of stalls. One can only hope that other managers, who are more prone than he to produce pieces that exercise the mind as well as the eye and ear, will admit his wisdom, or at least tentatively follow in his dashing wake.

Lord Morley.

The death of Lord Morley, a great statesman and admirable writer, not only reminds us how dis-

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tant are those Victorian times in which he so nobly flourished, but shows us comparatively to how low a level politicians have now sunk. This scholarly Liberal, to whom both friend and foe paid and are paying tribute, was not unique; he was typical of the best of his age. And who of this day can be likened to him? Mr. Asquith alone, perhaps, of whom it was said when he was ousted from office in 1916, that the last gentleman in the House had gone.

In the view of this generation, Lord Morley's reconciliation of the principles of democracy with keenly individualistic action seems remarkable, but syntheses were far easier to effect in those days. Nearly everything that Lord Morley opposed has since prospered, and yet his faith in democracy was apparently unshaken. But he belonged to a class of men, found now practically nowhere in Parliament, with long vision and tenacious purpose—virtues which one day, and that not too far off, we shall have to regain. One cannot imagine that, for instance, he would at this crisis have allowed matters to smoothe themselves out, for he believed passionately in the human ordering of affairs.

Chars-a-Banc.

No one, I suppose, will deny that "sharrer-bangs" are the devil. All walkers loathe the things. "Let us take the road," says some one; but "Hark, I hear the sound of coaches, the hour of attack approaches," and pedestrians are either charging for safety to the hedge or else smothered in dust in the ditch, with the raucous gibe of a Barclay and Perked "sharrerbanger" ringing in their ears. But there is, please heaven, a possibility of the disappearance of these monstrous affairs. They are, apparently, not only a nuisance, but a danger to the public; and the police are now enforcing with heavy fines the rule against their travelling at more than twelve miles an hour. This, of course, makes them an uncommercial proposition.

Thus, it would seem, endeth the dispute for supremacy between road and rail transport. Anyone could foresee that, our roads not being built either to sustain or to contain such enormous things as thirty-five seaters, the railways would eventually come into their own again.

The End of Summer.

This year summer seemed not merely to pass: it snapped. Everyone reproached the bright intelligence who made us last Sunday week put our clocks forward (or was it back?), but he was in truth a little cleverer than we thought. For ever since that day we seem to have been jostled by the wind and stung by the rain. There never has, in time of peace, been a more miserable picture for the third week in September than my cricket eleven fielding on Saturday. It rained and it blew, yet, quite disregarding the eager democrats who in a neighbouring field were joyfully playing Rugger, and also because it was the last game of the season, we endured. Kipling *was* quite wrong, of course, when he talked about "flannelled fools," but . . .

In any case, autumn is now really with us. Before the day is over, night is upon us, and it is dark and there are fires awaiting us when we reach home in the evening. The sounds of cricket, the warmth of sunshine, the smell of fields even, all seem infinitely remote; mists and the dew are now everywhere. Yet this is not the whole of the picture, for no representation that makes September and October anything less than the best months in the year can be; the moons are extremely beautiful (harvest moon is upon us), and the winds are as heady as ever autumnal winds were.

"Briton" and "Britisher."

The subject at the head of this paragraph I approach with some trepidation, assuming that my readers are experts in the matter of naming correctly the inhabitants of the United Kingdom and the members of the British Empire. My excuse is that the Society for Pure English has just published a tract, written by Robert Bridges, on this fascinating and not unimportant topic. The words "Briton" and "Britisher" are, of course, rejected by the S.P.E., and, indeed, no one with an attuned ear can bear the sound of either word, the first sounding far too remote, majestical, and inhuman for our time, and the second reeking of foreign origin and of odiously immodest implication. And the word "British," the only really English word of the three in correct use, is but an adjective.

Perhaps, readers, now that the S.P.E. is asking for suggestions or expressions of opinion, may care to send their views in to THE NEAR EAST. It is curious, but possibly not so strange, that this country and Empire should have evolved no name for its inhabitants; all part of that "absence of mind," one supposes, in which no foreigner can believe, but which alone can explain a thousand and one acts in our history.

The Charms of Cymry.

The artistic propensities of the Welsh are not as developed as perhaps they might be, but in some cases, it seems, their remarkable religious instincts lead them to purer realms of art than we can attain. A certain superior scorn is being poured out by the lofty-minded English on one Mr. Jones, of the Portmadoc Town Council, who persuaded his community to cover up on Sundays the posters which disfigure the Town Hall. Petty and Puritan, we say; of such intolerance is the backwardness of the Welsh derived. But in truth Mr. Jones's action should be widely applauded and imitated. Portmadoc is, I understand, a fishing village; and anyone who knows the Sabbath calm of fishing villages will welcome the refraining from senseless gazing at vulgar posters by the respectable villagers. Of course, the incorrigible Saxon will say that the Welshman sold his soul to the man who put posters up on the Town Hall and now tries to save his skin (in such distant parts, still, probably, from Hell fire) by shielding them from Heaven's eye on Sundays; but, apart from all such philosophising, we would give much to be able to spend our Sundays and never see a poster.

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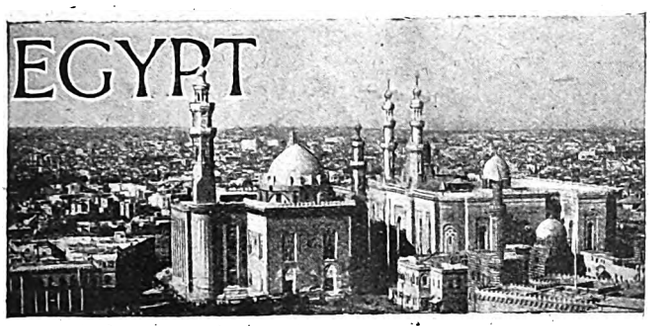

Cairo, September 14.

The Fahmy Murder Trial.

Eclipsing in popular interest even the imminent return of Saad Pasha Zaghloul, the Fahmy murder trial, now proceeding in London, is the topic of almost universal conversation. Aly Bey Fahmy was so well known in Cairo, and the revelations being made in London are so sensational, that everything else has for the moment been forgotten. The Arabic newspapers are spending large sums on having full reports of the affair cabled out, one paper, *Al Ahram*, publishing practically a verbatim account of each day's proceedings. As an indication of the interest here, a remark a newsboy made to a would-be purchaser of the *Ahram*, a morning newspaper, yesterday afternoon, is interesting. "Now this Fahmy case is on," said the boy, "you couldn't buy a copy of the *Ahram* in the afternoon for all the money in Egypt."

The Wafd Leader's Return.

The authorities have been feeling slightly nervous as to what may happen when Zaghloul Pasha returns to Egypt next Monday. Yesterday there was a conference at the offices of the Ministry of the Interior, as a result of which detailed instructions have been issued regarding what will and what will not be allowed in the way of a popular welcome. In effect, what it all comes to is that individuals may cheer and show their joy as much as they wish, but there must be no organised demonstrations or processions. There is no reason for expecting any trouble, and the authorities have drafted hundreds of extra policemen into Alexandria from the provinces to cope with the situation, but Alexandria is a town where a very big row has often started from insignificant beginnings. Like most seaports, Alexandria has a large floating population, including at this time of year thousands of Saidis, notoriously turbulent characters, who are always ready for mischief. The existence of thousands of foreigners of the lower classes, living cheek by jowl with natives, has been the prime cause of several disturbances in the past, and is another feature peculiar to Alexandria. So that, although popular feeling is now quieter than it has been for years past, and everything points to Zaghloul's homecoming going off perfectly peacefully, everybody will breathe a sigh of relief when he is safely packed into the train for Cairo. No apprehensions are felt of serious trouble in the capital.

The Capitulations.

The rights of foreigners in general and certain nationalities in particular have come in for much discussion during the last few days, and the Capitulations have been dragged into many arguments. The bringing to book of the two Germans accused of murdering Tewfik Bey Karam, a British subject, at Alexandria last January was responsible for starting the discussions. In this case the Capitulations do not apply, as Germany abandoned her Capitulatory rights by the Treaty of Versailles, but the right of jurisdiction over German subjects was expressly withheld until Egypt should set up courts of universal jurisdiction; in other words, until the Capitulations should have been abolished so far as all European nations are concerned. It was provided in the Treaty that British Consular Courts here should have jurisdiction over Germans, under decrees to be issued by the (then) Sultan of Egypt. These decrees have never been issued, and the Egyptian Government is claiming that the accused Germans should be tried by the Native Courts. At the moment only one man is concerned. The other is detained at Trieste by the Italian police, who decline to send him to Egypt until it is proved that this is the country where he should be tried. The German Government is resisting the Egyptian claim to try the men, claiming that no tribunal in this country has the right to judge them. It looks as though the German Government's contention will be upheld, and that the two men will eventually stand their trial in their own country.

The position of the Russian Minister, M. Smirnoff, who, although appointed by the Tsarist Government, and not recognised by the Soviets, continues to exercise his powers here, is also being much debated. M. Smirnoff has set up courts to try Russian subjects in Egypt, the old Russian code being followed in these tribunals, from which there is no appeal. This is obviously irregular and *ultra vires*, and the Arabic newspapers are urging the Egyptian Government not to continue recognition of M. Smirnoff and his courts, but to treat Russians as local subjects, and, if necessary, to try them by the native courts. This would be defying the Capitulations so far as Russia is concerned, and, although the Government has had the matter under consideration, it is scarcely probable that the question will be settled quite so drastically. It may be assumed that the other Capitulatory Powers would have something to say.

The Capitulations have also been invoked by the Syrian-born French owner of *L'Egypte*, the newspaper which was suppressed by the Egyptian Government last Saturday, the day of its first appearance. He has appealed to the French Consul-General. Were M. Gaillard, the French

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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representative in this country, to take the matter up seriously, there might be an interesting discussion, but the present case is a little too thin for anyone to worry very much about. *L'Egypte* was admittedly a political journal, published in the interests of the Wafd, and its nominal owner's French nationality was merely a convenient screen behind which the real controllers of the paper thought that they could issue their journal without obtaining the permit for which they had applied, but which had been refused them.

Cairo's Child Beggars.

Russell Pasha, Commandant, Cairo City Police, recently returned from the International Police Conference in New York, considers that the subjects there discussed which are of greatest immediate interest to Egypt are the problem of child offenders, the drug traffic, and unlawful possession of arms. Telling me yesterday about his impressions in America, Russell Pasha said that he had been much struck with the way the problem of the juvenile delinquents is handled in some American cities. The contrast with Egypt is complete. There everything, here nothing, is done for the youthful offender. There are in Cairo practically no homes for waifs. The Brotherhood home at Shubra does an excellent work, entirely supported by private subscriptions, and there is a Liberty Home, an Egyptian-run institution which was started with a great flourish of trumpets some years ago, but which now has been forgotten by most people. The police run a small home of their own, but it is not a place where children can be kept indefinitely and trained in some calling. At the present time thousands of little beggars, whose parents were not criminals, are steadily drifting into crime under the eyes of the police, who can do nothing. The same curse of public indifference is responsible for the alarming spread of the cocaine and morphia habits. Russell Pasha is very emphatic about the evil, and declares that unless proper steps are taken to suppress it, the whole youth of the country will in a few years be completely corrupted. The maximum penalty for cocaine trafficking is a P.T. 100 fine. Russell Pasha is confident that, given adequate legislation, he could reduce the drug traffic in Cairo 75 per cent. in one year.

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ALBANIA.

Tirana, September 20.

Parliamentary Sessions.

The ordinary session of Parliament was opened on Sunday, and M. Eshref Frasheri was again elected President of the Chamber.

The extraordinary session, opened on August 20, for the express purpose of considering the various concessions, thus came to an end without any of the scheduled business being concluded. The Anglo-Persian Oil Company's Concessions alone had made any noteworthy progress. It is proposed, however, to prolong, if necessary, the ordinary session into October should there be any prospect of completing the business of the extraordinary session.

The Government and the Chamber.

The Government does not appear to have the same degree of support in the Chamber as it had last session. Nevertheless, it is generally anticipated that Achmet Bey's Administration will continue to hold its own until the elections, due in November, for the Constituent Assembly. Further, it is anticipated that these elections will result in the strengthening of the Government.

Opposition Proposals.

Bishop Fan Noli, who so signally distinguished himself as representative of Albania last year at the League of Nations, and now leads the strongest group of Deputies among the Opposition, has formulated a number of demands to Parliament. Among these figure the following:—

(a) The establishment of a Government composed of all parties before the elections are held.

(b) The return of the politicians to Albania who were exiled at the time of the attempted armed revolution in March, 1922.

(c) The holding of the Constituent Assembly at Valona.

It is not probable that these demands will be accepted. Bishop Fan Noli's group has attempted to organise a public petition in support of the above programme; but not even at Valona, which is considered the stronghold of the group, has any great number of signatures been obtained.

The Electoral Reform Bill.

The political business of the ordinary session chiefly consists in dealing with the Government's Electoral Reform Bill, the most important provision of which is aimed at securing equitable representation for religious minorities in those parts of the country where one religion greatly preponderates. This Reform Bill cannot be described as a party measure, and has its supporters in all the groups. It is a long measure, however, and is sure to offer opportunities to the Opposition of attacking the Government.

The Italo-Greek Dispute.

The chief political interest during the past three weeks has naturally centred in the events connected with the murder of the Italian Mission in Greece.

General surprise is felt at the attitude taken up by the majority of the English Press *vis-à-vis* Italy's action subsequent to the murder, and in spite of the unpopularity of Italy in many quarters, very little is heard condemning Italy's action as irregular. Nevertheless, the close friendship which Albanians feel towards England and the particular reverence in which the League of Nations is held over here had predisposed Albanian public opinion in favour of the dispute being settled by the League. There is no doubt, however, that Italy's strong action, followed by the practical triumph of the Italian standpoint, has enormously

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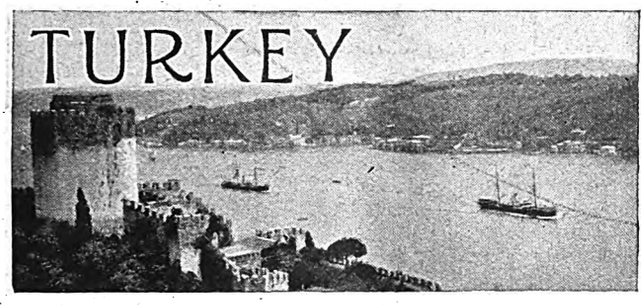
increased Italy's prestige in this country, which goes a long way to justify Italy's action from her own point of view, especially when it is remembered that in consequence of the unfortunate policy of past Administrations, the prestige of Italy over here had fallen to a very low level.



Constantinople, September 18.

The Evacuation.

The past week has been singularly free from events, with the exception of the taking over of Karagatch by the Turkish authorities last Saturday. The progress in the evacuation of the Allied forces is now quite marked, for a considerable number of public functions formerly under the control of the Allies have now passed into the hands of the Turks, and during a walk or drive in the country it is very noticeable that the camps and hutments which have long been the homes of British troops, are now deserted except for a Turkish guard under the flag of the Red Crescent. The Turks have taken over the port control, and numerous barracks, factories, and other buildings have been handed over during the week by both the French and British commands. The Navy, too, is being reduced, and our old familiar friend the Iron Duke, flying Admiral Sir Osmond de Beauvoir Brock's flag, left yesterday.

Some Results of the Occupation.

The farewells are inevitable, but they nevertheless produce a feeling of sadness among those left behind, and to a certain extent we hope among those who are going away. This note was struck last Friday at a farewell party given to General and Lady Harington in the Embassy garden by the British colony, at which presentations were made to both the guests of honour and farewell speeches delivered. The spokesman for the colony, Mr. Walter Seager, very felicitously expressed the thanks of the colony for the protection and helpful attitude of the military command during the past five years, and gave utterance to all our admiration at the exemplary and dignified conduct of the British soldier and sailor in this town. All that has been said and written under this head should be endorsed and underlined in an unqualified manner. The British soldier and sailor have consistently behaved in a civilised manner, and with a conscious dignity which has been very impressive. Also, he has left a very important impress of his activities on the life of the town, particularly in the domain of sport. Football has made enormous strides among the youth of the city, for various British naval and military teams have played regularly against all the local teams of whatever race. Boxing has become the rage, athletic meetings are quite frequent, and the rapidly increasing number of tennis courts can always be sure of energetic players.

The Turkish Police.

The Turkish police force has also learned a thing or two from the Allied military police, although they would probably be very loath to admit it. It was somewhat amusing to find that one of the first acts of the new Director of Police, Assim Bey, was to send out a circular order, enjoining upon his subordinates, among other things, a bi-weekly shave. Apart from this salutory regulation, he gave some very sound instructions concerning the necessity of maintaining a correct and dignified demeanour. While on the subject of the Turkish police, who are always the target for a large amount of mud-slinging, one would like to say a good word for them without shutting one's eyes to their many and obvious faults when judged by the standard of our own police. Compared with any other Turkish official organisation, they are the best-turned-out, best equipped, and smartest set of men to be found here. As for their efficiency, one must record appreciation of the manner in which the men on point duty regulate the streams of disgracefully-driven motor transport through the narrow, ill-paved streets. Their task in this respect is infinitely more difficult than that of the London "Bobby," for ninety-nine per cent. of the local drivers, be they owners or chauffeurs, have not the most elementary conception of good manners and careful driving, nor have they acquired that innate discipline which would cause them to quail before the policeman's uplifted hand. Yet the point-duty men in Constantinople succeed in taking the greatest care of any motorist who takes the trouble to follow their directions.

Constantinople Administration.

The question of the administration of Constantinople is bulking more and more largely in people's minds, and the Press editorials, which are published in the combined paper which still does duty for all the normal papers suspended owing to the continued strike, are full of hope for the modernisation of Constantinople administration. As none of these critics ever seems to produce a concrete idea of what exactly is being aimed at, it is not easy for the mere foreigner to understand what the pother is about. Everyone agrees that the condition of the city is in every respect scandalous owing to maladministration by the various authorities, but it is difficult to understand how the suggested divorce of the prefecture from the governorship is going to improve matters. If the Turks would only stop talking about administrations, schemes, projects, reforms, and so on, and settle down to finding one or two energetic men and obeying them when found and installed in office, some progress might be achieved in the next half-century.

Political Matters.

On general political matters there is at the moment nothing obvious happening, but much is

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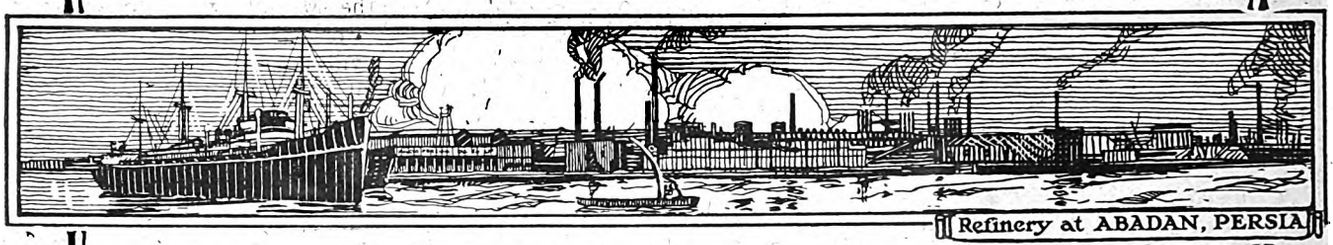

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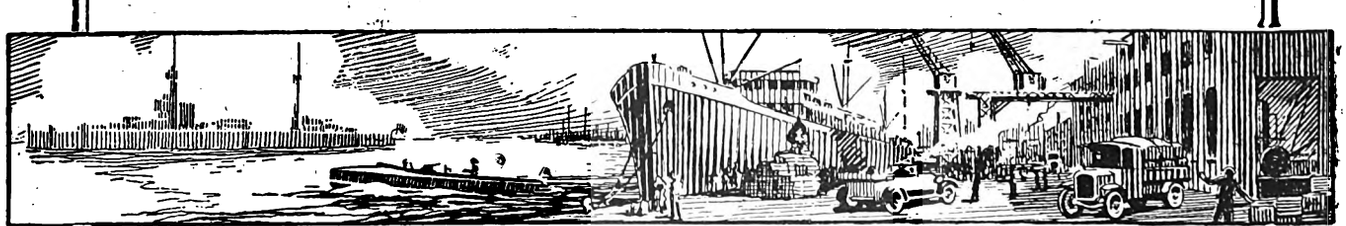

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going on beneath the surface. Another Ministerial change is on the tapis, Hassan Bey, the Lausanne delegate, being expected to replace Hassan Fehmi Bey, the Minister of Finance. Apart from this, interest chiefly centres in a vigorous Press discussion on the functions of a political opposition. The principal text of the discourse is significant in that the independently minded journalists maintain that criticism of the Government and its doings is a legitimate function of the people in whom the sovereignty lies—a shrewd blow that—and is not to be confounded with that heinous but ill-defined crime of *lèse-patrie*. The *Ileri*, which is a Government paper, has been writing obviously inspired articles, which convey the implication that the Government is alarmed at the strength of the opposition in the country. It confesses that the Government has officially suppressed the opposition in the Assembly in order that the whole body may have its hands free to devote itself to securing practical advantages for the country, but it inveighs against the ex-functionaries and ex-officers who are embarrassing this patriotic body by their attempts to create fresh difficulties for the country. All the details of this polemic are not interesting, but the concentration of so many elements upon this matter is causing a flood of underground rumours concerning the instability of the Government and the possibility of an internal convulsion. Without paying too much heed to such opinions and rumours, which are usually spread with an ulterior motive, one does notice a very considerable weakening of the Government's hold over the country, and internal developments seem likely to appear much sooner than at one time appeared possible.

Exchange of Populations.

The discussion of the approaching exchange of populations is accompanied by the usual virulent propaganda concerning the appalling sufferings of the Moslems under Greek rule, and scarcely veiled hints concerning the possibility of reprisals on the persons and property of the Greeks of Constantinople. This is a very serious matter, the atmosphere is very highly charged with explosive matter, exaggerated stories of atrocities are flying round, the bases of public order and security—never very secure—are less secure than ever now, and the precipitate action of any unofficial terrorist organisation, whether countenanced by the authorities or not, might easily produce a general holocaust. Meanwhile, the Government obviously cannot find the money to do the job properly, and any attempts made by the authorities to take from individuals the ill-gotten loot which they have acquired out of abandoned properties, in order to devote the proceeds to the exchange of populations fund, raises a howl of protest, and automatically reinforces the opposition elements. Some Moslems have realised a fact which has long ago impressed the rest of the world, namely that when Christians were being expelled under most unfavourable conditions from Turkey, money, food, help, and facilities of all kinds were poured forth by the whole of the Christian world for the alleviation of their sufferings, but there are as yet no signs that the Moslem world is going to do the same thing for the Moslem *emigrés* from Greece. Hence an appeal to the Moslem world has been published in the Press saying that five piastres each from the 300 million Moslems in Egypt, India, Tunis, and so on would suffice to secure the future of the 700,000 exchanged Moslems, and that if the Moslem world does not do what the Christian world has done for its co-religionists, the Cross will once more show itself superior to the Crescent. The appeal is pitiful, but it evokes practically no response.

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ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 15.

New Bills.

Parliament will re-open on October 15 (*i.e.*, October 2, Old Style). The following is a list of some of the most important Bills which are to be brought before the coming Session :—

(1) Law for administrative and electioneering reform.

(2) Stamp law (including Trade Marks and Designs Bill).

(3) Church and school reform.

(4) Law for the protection of workmen.

These all have reference to internal administration, and the only one which may be of interest internationally is the Trade Marks and Designs Bill. Further, it is intended to re-edit and clarify the new Constitution, which contains many ambiguities. The new mining regulations are still to be voted in connection with the nationalisation of the sub-soil, and committees are at work on the unification of the common law and the commercial and penal codes. The revision of these is already well in hand, but they are not yet ready for publication, even in the Bill stage.

Miscellaneous.

The professional journalists of Bessarabia are reported to be forming a union, to be called L'Union des Journalistes Professionnels de Bessarabie, of which M. G. D. Hushi, editor of the *Dreptatea*, is president, and M. Leon Donici, editor of the *Bessarabie*, vice-president.

His Majesty the King of Roumania, is now in residence at Sinaia. Her Majesty the Queen is still abroad, and Princess Ileana is in England.

M. J. C. Bratiano, President of the Council of Ministers, has returned to Bucharest.

The wedding of Prince Paul of Serbia and Princess Olga will take place next month in Belgrade.

The appointment of Ahmed Pasha Ziwar to be Egyptian Minister in Rome creates a vacancy in the Cabinet, and it is thought probable that Mahmud Pasha Shukry will succeed to the office of Minister of Communications.

Colonel T. G. G. Heywood left Constantinople on September 18 for Salonika, bearing wreaths to lay on graves in the principal cemeteries at Salonika, Doiran, and in the Struma Valley, on behalf of General Sir Charles Harington and the British Army.

After the official ending of the monsoon three weeks ago a terrific downpour occurred in Bombay last Thursday, and resulted in the most serious floods Bombay has experienced for many years. Train, tram, and motor traffic was suspended for many hours, and the railway was flooded.

King Fuad has signed a decree confirming the appointment of the following Ministers to London, Paris, Rome, and Washington respectively :—Aziz Pasha Izzet, Mahmud Pasha Fakhry, Ahmed Pasha Ziwer, Seifullah Pasha Yusry. Ahmed Bey Hassanein, the well-known explorer, has been appointed First Secretary to the new Egyptian Legation in Washington.

Mr. Srinavasa Sastri, who returned to India last month, after his visit to England as the leader of the representatives of non-official members of the Indian Legislature on the Kenya question, has had to abandon the active campaign of speaking in connection with the impending general election he had planned, as the heart trouble which compelled him to go into a nursing home in England for some weeks in the summer has recurred.

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Near East Bookshelf.

SOUTHERNMOST SUDAN.

"EQUATORIA: THE LADO ENCLAVE." By Major C. H. Stigand. (London: Constable. 21s. net).

It is a sad reflection, constantly arising as one reads on, that the author of this admirable book is now dead, killed in a revolt of the Dinkas in 1919. For, quite obviously he was an administrator of almost incalculable value to the Empire; in some ways his knowledge of African customs and languages was unique. It is good, therefore, to have on record his research into and his opinions upon that little known country, the Lado Enclave, unfinished though the book is.

There is practically no point of the Enclave, regarded both from within and from without, that Major Stigand did not touch. He examines equally thoroughly its frontiers (showing, incidentally, the folly of arranging them on any but tribal lines), its geographical features, the various districts of the Enclave, its different tribes and their customs, its history (with special reference, done with fine judgment, to Emin Pasha), and the general outlook for the Enclave. In short, his book is a compendium of scientific facts, informed, moreover, by a keen sense both of proportion and of humanity.

The Enclave, the author points out, may be reached by three routes—the Nile route, the Uganda Railway route, and the Congo River route. At first in the possession of Belgium, who at one time had command of the only available route to it, it passed on the death of Leopold II. to the Sudan, and, although part of it has since gone to Uganda, it has remained under that administration ever since. It is from the North, probably, when a railway has been built between Rejaf and Nimule, thus completing the Cape-to-Cairo route, that whatever prosperity is to be its lot will come to it. But there is much yet to be done, both from a political and a commercial point of view. One of the most important administrative changes necessary in the Sudan is the separation of the Negro provinces from the Arab provinces: if the negroes of the Enclave are to be paid as are the Arabs of other parts, there is little hope for its commercial future. On the other hand, railways are a necessity, irrigation is required, cotton, fruit, timber, and so forth, might all be encouraged. And, of course, before these things can effectively be done sleeping sickness must be combated.

One feels all through this book—though Major Stigand certainly does not magnify them—the tremendous difficulties with which an administrator of this country must be faced. A problem is solved but to be succeeded by another; there is always something fresh to be done. How successful the author was in his charge can be gauged from General Wingate's Introductory Memoir to this book; no better model for his successors could possibly be found than his scientific, linguistic, and humanistic method.

This volume, which is indispensable to all students of the Sudan, is admirably produced, and contains adequate maps and an index.

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A DEFENCE OF ISLAMIC DOCTRINES.

"THE BOOK OF RELIGION AND EMPIRE." By 'Ali Tabari, translated by A. Mingana, D.D., Lecturer in Arabic in the University of Manchester. (London: Longmans, Green and Co. 10s. 6d net.)

In the ninth century of our era Islam had attained its apogee; but the Abbasid Khalifs who reigned at Baghdad were men of broad views, whose tolerant spirit encouraged the spread of Christianity. Its progress was watched with deep concern by the orthodox, and a controversy began which produced many theological treatises. The protagonists were Al Kindi, whose "Apology for Christianity" has been exhaustively dealt with by the late Sir William Muir; and 'Ali Tabari, who wrote a learned defence of Islam at the orders of the Khalif Mutawakkil. The John Rylands Library at Manchester possesses a unique copy of the latter work, made from the author's autograph in 1219 A.D.; and Dr. Mingana, who is in charge of its MSS. department, has done well to publish a scholarly translation. Little is known of 'Ali Tabari. That he was a physician and philosopher of mark is proved by the works which bear his name. Amongst them was the "Paradise of Medicine," in which he states that his father was a learned writer of the town of Merv, and

a constant reader of books of medicine and philosophy, who preferred medicine to the profession of his fathers. His aim was not vainglory or money, but esteem and consideration. He was for that surnamed Rabban, which means our Master and our Teacher.

We learn from contemporary writers that 'Ali Tabari renounced his ancestral religion—Christianity—for Islam, and gained admittance to the Court of the Khalif Mu'tassim (833-841), who made him a table-companion. He appears to have found equal favour from the Khalif Mutawakkil (847-861), who was a fiercely orthodox Muslim. An edict issued by him in 849 ordered the demolition of all Christian churches,

and forbade the employment of Christians in Government offices and the display of crosses on Palm Sunday; he also gave orders that wooden figures of demons should be fixed on their doors, that they should wear yellow cowls, and a zonarion round the waist; that they should ride saddles with wooden stirrups and two globes behind the saddle; that in the men's attire there should be inserted a couple of patches of colour different from that of the clothes themselves, each patch to be four inches wide, and the two to be of different colours. Any Christian woman who went out of doors was to wear a yellow tunic without waistband.

This Draconian edict defeated its object, and made the Khalif very unpopular. He, therefore, resolved to try the effect of persuasion, and ordered 'Ali Tabari to publish a refutation of Kindi's heretical treatise. In obeying the imperial behest our author displayed much sympathy for the religion of his fathers. In his opinion, Christians, as "People of the Book," stood in a different category from idol-worshippers; and Judaism, as a "protected cult," received some consideration. He laboured to prove, by quoting texts in the Old and the New Testament, that Mohammed was in sooth a Prophet and a medium of divine revelation. Hindus, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians are handled with more severity; but 'Ali Tabari's counterblast is singularly free from the acrimony which characterises the dialectics of every age. His work is of great value to students of comparative religion, who will learn with satisfaction that an edition of the Arabic original is contemplated.

F. H. S.

BOOK RECEIVED.

"Comparative Grammar of the Semitic Languages." By Dr. De Lacy O'Leary. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

September 27 (New Style).
August 13 (Old Style).
Saphar 15, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 18, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Albanian Minister has returned to London from Paris.

Sir Henry and Lady Bax-Ironside have returned to 23, Grosvenor Place, from the Continent.

Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left on September 17 for France.

M. G. Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on September 17 for Paris.

M. V. Andjelkovitch, Attaché at the Serbian Legation, and Mme. Andjelkovitch, returned to London last week from Belgrade.

Lady Allen has moved from 6, Upper Belgrave Street to 39, Wilton Crescent, S.W.1, which is now her permanent address.

Queen Olga of Greece left Spencer House, St. James's, on September 25 to visit Queen Alexandra for some weeks at Sandringham.

Prince Christopher of Greece, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Leeds, left Southampton on September 22, in the Aquitania, for New York.

Rai Bahadur Pandit Kanhaiya Lal has been appointed a Puisne Judge of the Allahabad High Court, in succession to Sir Pramada Charan Banarji, who is retiring from the Bench in March, 1924.

Colonel Leslie Wilson, who has been appointed Governor of Bombay, will sail for India on November 22. He is to give evidence before the Joint Committee on the Sittings of Parliament on November 13.

Sir Ali Imam, who has been on an important mission in England for the past four months, left London last Thursday with Lady Imam for Marseilles, where they embarked the following day in the mail steamer Caledonia for Bombay.

The session 1923-24 begins at University College, London, on Monday, October 1, and the following public lectures will be given in the first week of the term: "Religious Life in Egypt," by Professor Sir Flinders Petrie; "The New Babylonian Creation and Flood Stories," by Dr. T. G. Pinches; and "Primitive Religion," by Miss Margaret Murray.

The King has given authority for the wearing of the following decorations of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the King of Egypt in recognition of good services rendered:—

Second Class.—Lt.-Col. J. K. Watson, C.M.G., C.V.O., C.B.E., D.S.O., ret. pay, late K.R.R.C.

Third Class.—Maj. J. A. Clark, M.B.E., M.B., R.A.M.C.

Fourth Class.—Maj. G. L. St. A. Davies, O.B.E., Worc. Regt.; Maj. C. H. Gore, O.B.E., late R.A.S.C.; Capt. W. R. Barker, D.C.L.I.; Capt. C. G. Martin, V.C., D.S.O., R.E.; Capt. H. C. E. Jebb, K.O. Royal Regt. (Lancaster); Capt. O. H. Warne, M.C., Manch. Regt.

INDIAN AND COLONIAL CIVIL SERVICES.

The following are declared by the Civil Service Commissioners to have obtained the first twenty-one places in order of merit at the recent concurrent Open Competitive Examinations for the Indian Civil Service and Colonial Civil Service (Eastern Cadetships):—

Finlay, W. W.	Carse, W.
McElhinny, G. W.	Corry, W. C. S.
Whittaker, A.	Holmes, W.
Egerton, W. le B.	Satthianadhan, W. R. S.
Gough, F. C. G.	Ray, S. N.
Dalziel, W. W.	Bajpai, S. S.
Joshi, G. K.	Rutnam, D. R.
Vickers, C. A.	Seal, E. A.
del Tufo, M. V.	Godsall, W. D.
Rajagopalan, P.	Baksi, N.
Wallis, L. G.	

The following are the successful candidates at the recent concurrent Competitive Examinations for the Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service and General and Levant Consular Services:—

Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service.—Gallop, R. A.

General and Levant Consular Services (in order of merit).—Ife, A. E.; O'Dwyer, J. C.; Carse, W.; Francis, A. D.; Finch, J. P. G.; Kemball, C. G.

Mr. Siegmund Behrend, of Wiesbaden, Germany, and late of Alexandria, Egypt, of Messrs. Behrend and Co., Ltd., of Alexandria, and Messrs. B. and D. Behrend, cotton-seed merchants, London, who died at Wiesbaden on July 16, 1918, domiciled in Egypt, left personal estate in the United Kingdom of the net value of £55,278, the value of the property in Germany and in Egypt not being stated on the grant. He left £800 sterling among the various charitable institutions of Alexandria, Egypt, without distinction of religion; 2,000 marks to the Ahlen Israelite Institute, Hanover; one month's salary to each employee of Behrend and Co., Ltd., of three years' service; and 30s. per month for life to his faithful old servant Kemad.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1923.

EGYPT'S PROBLEM.

Zaghloul Pasha has returned to Egypt, having, it is to be feared, learnt nothing and forgotten nothing. His first public contribution to the discussion of the problems confronting independent Egypt is an unmeasured denunciation not only of Great Britain but also of all his fellow-countrymen outside the ranks of his professed followers. He glories in being purely destructive in his criticism. "They ask us," he is reported to have said, "what is your programme? We are not a party to have a programme; we are delegates and the mouthpiece of the nation. We are the nation. We have no programme but complete independence. When we get it I shall close my mouth, and you will never hear me speak again." Yet when Zaghloul Pasha tries to specify more clearly in what respects Egyptian independence is encroached upon, he is reduced to inveighing against either the antecedent conditions of that independence, such as the Indemnity Act, or the considered judgment of his own people, as exemplified in the Constitution or electoral law. No one contends that Egypt is as free of all outside influences as, let us say, Denmark or Spain; she never has been, and it is impossible that in the near future she should be. Zaghloul Pasha, however, would realise, if he gave himself time to examine present conditions in Egypt, that, whereas a few months ago executive power rested with the British officials, to-day all effective authority is in the hands of Egyptians. It may be true that several of the recent enactments will in the light of experience call for revision. They are in the nature of emergency measures to pave the way for the exercise by Egypt of her new independence, and until the Egyptian people can bring to bear upon them its considered judgment it is better to register a *caveat* against them, if need be, than to have them scrapped, with nothing to take their place. Fiery denunciations from a man who has been in the country only a few days after an absence of two years, and who has taken no steps to discuss the situation with those of his fellow-countrymen who are in a position of responsibility, will carry no weight with thinking people, however much they may stir the mob to unrest and fire the enthusiasm of place-hunting politicians.

If Zaghloul Pasha has nothing better to offer Egypt, he would have rendered the country a greater service by remaining abroad. Up to the moment of his coming it was more peaceful than it had been for years. Elections are imminent, and in spite of obvious shortcomings Egypt is doing her best to stand alone. No practical man expects her to walk firmly at once; her first steps must be faltering, and Great Britain stands by in case she shows signs of falling. Her presence in the eyes of Zaghloul Pasha is the great offence; but either he is lacking in knowledge of world politics or he is deliberately misleading his countrymen. If he would substantiate his claim to lead the nation, he must know that, were Great Britain to dissociate herself from the future of Egypt as completely as he professes to desire, her place would immediately or at no long interval be taken by another Power. If his objection is to the British alone, let him tell his people frankly that he merely wishes them out of the way in order to make room for French or Italian domination in Egypt. He claims to desire that Egypt should repudiate the British Declaration of February, 1922. That Declaration accorded to Egypt recognition as an independent sovereign State, and reserved certain subjects for subsequent agreement between the two countries. Zaghloul Pasha may object to the preamble, which points out that the relations between His Majesty's Government and Egypt are of vital interest to the British Empire. The fact that they are so, however, remains, for all the protests of the Nationalist leader; and, if he would devote a moment's consideration to the subject, he would realise that Great Britain can no more be indifferent to the maintenance and security of British communications than a Continental Power can relax its preoccupation for the security of its frontiers. It is, we fear, the failure to grasp this elementary fact that is mainly responsible for Zaghloul Pasha's present attitude. He has been the main factor in inducing the British Government to accord to Egypt the status of an independent sovereign State, and he imagines that further obduracy on his part may extract further concessions. In this he fails to appreciate that, whereas Egypt was previously in disagreement with the predilections of British Ministers, she has now, by the grant of independence actually made, been brought up against a basic principle of the British Empire, against which no other argument than defeat in war can prevail.

A round-table conference between the Nationalist leader and his chief political opponents, we believe, would establish the fact that there is little to separate them at this stage beyond their attitude to the question of the vital nature to the British Empire of the relations between Egypt and Great Britain. It is almost incredible that a man of Zaghloul Pasha's parts should deliberately plunge Egypt back where she was four years ago "in order to solve the problem from the beginning." The course of the negotiations between successive Egyptian Governments and the British Representative has testified to the anxiety of the former to secure, if possible, the status that Zaghloul Pasha demands for Egypt; and if they have withdrawn from the position that they took up, it is because they have, as a result of a frank exchange of views, appreciated the facts of the case. Unless exile and old age have blunted the sharpness of the Nationalist leader's intellect, there may, after all, be no need to regard his outburst as more than a move in the political game. The elections are approaching, and in his absence his party has lost ground with the Egyptian public. If any political slogan could revive its drooping fortunes, it would be the wholesale denunciation of the past, with its implied prospect of a better future under the auspices of Zaghloul Pasha. Whether the attempt succeeds or not, it will not enhance the reputation of its author among thinking men in Egypt or outside it. The country has far too many domestic problems to deal with to make it advisable that it should place any grievances against Great Britain in the forefront of its political questions. These problems can be solved satisfactorily only by level-headed, dispassionate legislation, which will be impossible so long as passions are inflamed by absorption over foreign affairs.

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KAID MIZBAN.

By "FULANAIN."

It was the Shatt al 'Ama* which led me to the tents of Kaid Mizban. On our way across the desert we had come upon a dried-up channel, still deep in spite of drifting sands. This, I was told, was the Blind River. Fifty years earlier it had watered many thousands of acres of the best wheat-growing land in the district; then, as if suddenly deprived of sight, it had turned abruptly to the west, pouring its valuable waters into a saltmarsh, in which they were utterly wasted.

The straggling line of camels behind us, bearing tents and baggage, could not reach our destination for some hours after our own arrival. We decided in the interval to see something of the river which, by deserting its old bed, had turned a fertile land into the barren desert we were now crossing.

A half-hour's ride towards the hills, across a network of former irrigation canals, brought us to a shallow stream of blue water, easily fordable now, but in the spring, the Arabs told me, a racing torrent greater than the Tigris in flood. Half a mile upstream I was shown where the river had taken its sharp swerve to the right, depriving the sheikh of the greater part of his wealth, and hundreds of cultivators of their livelihood.

Near by, just this side of the Persian frontier, the Arabs pointed out the site of a great dam, built by the father of the sheikh who was now with me—a mighty effort to divert the waters back again into their rightful channel. Two old men who had taken part in the work described the many months of labour, the feverish activity of the last few days when only a small breach remained to be closed, the final triumph of success. On that great day the sheikh had ridden across the dam, followed by his tribesmen riding six abreast. There was slaying of sheep, rejoicing, and much feasting. And while the people feasted came a warning shout: the water was trickling through the dam. As they ran, the trickle grew to a swift stream, and they watched the swirling river forge once more on its way, sweeping away the labour of months as if it had been a truss of straw.

We rode further up the stream, to the place at which a second and even less successful attempt had been made to divert the waters. Still further, in a narrow gorge in the hills, Sheikh Karaim showed me where, he fondly hoped, with British help the river might one day yet be turned and his dry lands know again their former richness.

We were some way across the border into Persian territory before we pulled up for lunch. The mingled anger and distress on Karaim's countenance, when he learned that Mohammed thought that Hassan had the food, and Hassan was certain that Mohammed had it, cleared away as an idea occurred to him.

"Yonder," he said, pointing to a black smudge in the distance, "are the tents of Kaid Mizban. He will gladly give us a meal."

I agreed, and we turned towards the little encampment. My assent would not have been given if I had known that banishment from the land of his fathers, with confiscation of flocks and crops, had been the punishment meted out by his overlord to this Persian chieftain, only lately restored to favour, on the last occasion on which he had entertained a British officer.

Forgetting that we were beyond the confines of British authority, we scampered in a body across the strip of plain which separated us from the cluster of black hair tents, until we were brought up short with great suddenness as a bullet whistled close above our heads.

One of our party, at a word from the sheikh, galloped forward towards the unseen marksman, waving his aba. Explanations and apologies were exchanged. We had been mistaken, as we rode full tilt for the village, for a gang of sheep stealers, and the tribesman in charge of a few brown sheep, which we could see peacefully grazing ahead of us, had shot to kill.

Karaim sent forward a messenger to warn Kaid Mizban of our approach and to request his hospitality for the mid-day meal. A few minutes later, as we walked our blowing ponies towards the tents, we saw our host hastening out to meet us, riding a horse which he had not waited to have saddled. He dismounted and came towards us on foot—a tall figure clad in baggy trousers and full-skirted coat of black, and wearing on his head a high hat of black felt, round which was twisted a scarf of white and purple, the colours of the voluminous sash around his waist. A charming, courtly old man he was, full of kindly greetings and apologies for the few preparations which our short notice had allowed him to make and of distress that one of his tribesmen should have fired on us.

Servants were called to take our horses and to bring water, and we were led to Kaid Mizban's tent, where carpets were quickly spread and fresh fuel piled upon the smouldering fire. From behind the screen which shut off the women's quarters we could hear sounds of busy preparation—the grinding of rice, the clinking of cooking-pots, the frightened cackle of chickens; while men hastened to and fro, bringing more wood, skins of water, and bowls of milk. Our host himself saw to our comfort, lighted cigarettes for us, and conversed with simple politeness in Arabic, which sounded strangely soft and sweet in the liquid tones of the Persian. By no word or hint did he allow us to guess that the presence of a British officer was anything but welcome—that the fear of his overlord's displeasure was clutching at his heart.

A meal of chicken, rice, and kabobs was quickly served, and after it, as we sat smoking, Kaid Mizban's servants came in with presents: two horse-rugs of Persian design for Sheikh Karaim, a small carpet for me. It was a poor carpet—may I be forgiven for disparaging his offering, the best his humble dwelling could produce!—but it was presented by the servants as a gift of priceless worth—held up to the light to show its colour, exhibited at different angles, rubbed briskly with the palm of the hand to display its sheen. Who could refuse a gift so charmingly offered?

Kaid Mizban insisted on riding part of the way hom[illegible]ith us. As we passed through the fields of

* Forming part of the boundary-line between Irak and Persia.

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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idhra (a kind of millet) I asked my host how the crops were doing.

"Poor, I fear," he said in his soft Arabic. "Poor. But all the better for your Honour's coming," he added, with a laugh which plainly said, "Of course, I know there's really no difference, but it was a pleasant thing for me to think of, wasn't it?"

Not until we had crossed the line of hills, and he had shown us a hidden spring of ice-cold water, in which we quenched our thirst, did Kaid Mizban bid us farewell, wishing us a safe return with an unstudied courtesy which made me reflect as we picked our way down towards the plains that this simple chieftain of a wild Persian tribe was indeed the *beau-idéal* of hosts.

Back at headquarters once more, I learned what had befallen Kaid Mizban when last he showed hospitality to an Englishman, so that when, a few days later, I was informed that he had arrived to see me, I feared that history must have repeated itself, for what else would send him riding a hundred miles across hill and desert to a little Mesopotamian town?

A question to his messenger reassured me. Kaid Mizban's overlord was too busily occupied with rebellious sons to have any attention to spare for the doings of a distant vassal. The object of his visit, it appeared, when Kaid Mizban arrived in my office, was to inform me that he had identified the luckless tribesman who had shot at our party, and had given him an incredible number of strokes on the soles of his feet.

I thought the man quixotic to make so much of a trifling inconvenience to one who had, after all, been his guest for only a few hours, though I admired the spirit which prompted him to make so long a journey in order to remove the smallest stain of inhospitality from the honour of his tribe. But as the visit lengthened out I began to have an uncomfortable feeling that Kaid Mizban must have come with some ulterior motive—a suspicion which was later confirmed. He had come for his return present.

It was a small matter, but I felt that Kaid Mizban had disappointed me. Not that I grudged him his present, for by our code as well as his own he was entitled to expect one. It was his unseemly haste to make sure of it, the insinuating hints dropped during our conversation, which put so unhappy a complexion on the matter. These were small things compared with his chivalry as my host, but just because they contrasted so sharply with his earlier behaviour they struck one the more forcibly. Sadly I realised that Kaid Mizban had fallen from his pedestal: I had caught a glimpse of feet of clay.

ORDER OF THE NILE.

The King has given authority for the wearing of the following decorations of the Order of the Nile, conferred by the King of Egypt in recognition of good services rendered:—

Insignia of the Third Class.—Maj. G. F. Hudson-Kinahan, C.B.E., Durham L.I.

Insignia of the Fourth Class.—Capt. F. H. Blackwood, D.S.O., Lincs R., late O.C. 14th Sudanese, Egyptian Army.

In consequence of the closing of the British Post Office at Constantinople the issue and payment of British postal orders at Constantinople was discontinued last Monday.

A telegram from Aleppo says that, pending the elections to the Representative Council, the Press censorship has been suspended throughout the States of the Syrian Federation.

Sir Walter Schwabe, Chief Justice of Madras, will resign office and return to England on the closing of the Madras High Court for the Christmas holidays. He intends to resume his practice at the English Bar.

It is reported that King Hussein of the Hejaz is sending a special messenger with a gift to the new Mohammedan mosque in Paris, consisting of a piece of ancient cloth embroidered with two verses of the Koran in letters of gold.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

On September 18 the Church of the Holy Virgin, near Gethsemane, was robbed of its diamonds, jewels, silver lamps, and icons.

M. Henri Beranger, the French Senator, has arrived at Belgrade from Zagreb, which he visited at the invitation of the Yugoslav Government.

It is stated from Belgrade that the Court has condemned Mylan Rayitch to 20 years' hard labour for the attempt on the life of the Premier, M. Pashitch.

Three Indian Congress leaders—Pandit Jawaharlal, Principal Gidwani, and another—who were entering Nabha, in connection with the Akali agitation, have been arrested by Nabha State officials.

Mr. Noel Buxton, who gave a lecture in Sofia on September 17 on the international policy of the British Labour Party, left the following day for Plevna, Tirnovo, Varna, Rustchuk, and Bucharest.

The *Pioneer's* Meshed correspondent reports that a severe earthquake was experienced at Bujnurd, 120 miles north of Meshed, at eleven on the morning of September 17. Slight shocks were felt in Meshed.

The Fourth Destroyer Flotilla, which returned to England from the Mediterranean soon after the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne, has been ordered to return to the Mediterranean towards the end of October to relieve the Eighth Flotilla.

Prince Petrovitch Niegosh, who went to Belgrade to congratulate the King and Queen of Yugoslavia on the birth of an heir to the throne, is reported to have told the Belgrade Press that he desires to be a Serbian soldier and remain in the Fatherland.

Colonel W. Kennedy, formerly of the Indian Army, and afterwards travelling superintendent of the Tea Districts Labour Association, was found dead last Saturday morning in the Howrah-Moghul Serai train. It is believed that he was murdered. The discovery was made at Kiul, 152 miles from Calcutta.

Mr. Carter repeated his lecture on the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen at the New Oxford Theatre on September 25, and will deliver it for the last time to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. The lecture is illustrated by slides and moving pictures of the discoveries made by Mr. Carter, in association with the late Lord Carnarvon. These are the only public lectures which will be delivered in London by Mr. Carter before his return to Egypt next month to resume work at the tomb.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Reparations Problem.

If anyone had said at the time of the Armistice that we should still be dealing with Reparations in 1923 he would have been ridiculed, and deservedly so, for the question was then one that admitted of comparatively ready treatment. Unhappily, almost every conceivable mistake has been made by the Allies, and the settlement that will ultimately be reached will be rather the result of a fortuitous combination of circumstances than of logical and co-ordinated action. In the light of recent developments it would really appear that we are nearer a settlement at the present time than at any period since the Armistice, though in view of the frequent disappointments that have been encountered it is clear that any undue optimism would be out of place. It cannot be emphasised too strongly that until there is a settlement in Europe —a real settlement, and one which will leave all countries free to devote their attention to their economic development—there can be no question of any universal trade revival. Our unemployment problem is to a very large extent the direct consequence of the Ruhr *impasse*, and its solution must in the main depend on the development of purchasing power in Europe. If there has been no other good result of the war, it may be hoped that it has, at any rate, brought home to all the absolute interdependence of nations, and in so doing has contributed to making wars an impossibility in the future.

The Empire Exhibition.

The ambitious character of the Wembley Exhibition is well exemplified by the description of the Indian pavilion on another page in this issue. It is going to be, in short, a real index of the economic potentialities of the Empire, and as a spectacle pure and simple will undoubtedly surpass anything of the kind hitherto attempted in this or any other country. It would be quite out of keeping with the post-war era if it fell short of this, for we have grown accustomed since 1918 to having everything, from aeroplanes to earthquakes, on the gigantic scale. How far the Exhibition will attain the object aimed at must remain to be seen, and opinions will differ as to whether it might not have been postponed with advantage for twelve months (especially in view of the counter-attraction of the Olympic Games), in view of the unfavourable economic position. In London itself the Exhibition is viewed with more than a little anxiety by those afflicted by the housing shortage in its various ramifications. They know what happened on the occasion of the Football Final, and the suggestion that camps should be erected has roused the justifiable fear that the City itself may be flooded by the crowds eager to see Wembley. While that fear is, of course, absurd, one can quite foresee difficult conditions, and I would suggest that if there is anything the authorities responsible for the Exhibition can do towards alleviating the housing shortage between now and next April, they would do well to set about it.

Outlook in Roumania.

The economic position in Roumania is the subject of interesting comment this week by our Bucharest Correspondent, and the details given with regard to increasing production should go far to correcting the impression that the country has been making but slight headway in the last year or two towards reconstruction. It is generally recognised that Roumania's future depends in the main on the development of her oilfields, and it is eminently satisfactory that the production of petroleum has been steadily increasing, the figures for the first six months of this year amounting to 761,162 tons, as compared with 667,687 tons. The agricultural position is also improving. There was an extension of the area under wheat of about 43,000 hectares, while the production is put at 40,440,000 hectolitres, as compared with 32,687,000 last year. It would appear that the maize harvest has also been good, and it is estimated that the total amount of cereals available for export represents about 500,000 wagons. The disposal of this quantity abroad would be bound, of course, to have a most favourable effect on the exchange, but, unfortunately, this is impossible owing to the inadequate transport facilities, which still constitute the drag on Roumania's progress, and on whose development literally everything hinges.

The Anglo-Austrian Bank.

The first report of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, covering the period from its incorporation on March 27, 1922, to December 31 last, has now made its appearance. It scarcely needs to be pointed out that the conditions under which the bank has carried on its operations have been peculiarly difficult, and in the circumstances the report makes excellent reading. The bank made a net profit of £70,777, of which sum £25,126 is placed to an opening reserve account, as representing the profit attributable to the period prior to the date of commencement of business. An initial dividend of 6d. per share on the ordinary capital is recommended, representing 2½ per cent., absorbing £25,000, and leaving £20,620 to be carried forward.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, September 15.

Petroleum Production.

The production of petroleum in Roumania during the first six months of this year was as follows, in metric tons, the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for last year:—January, 128,117 (102,653); February, 116,561 (100,874); March, 138,916 (118,319); April, 128,782 (110,656); May, 124,389 (121,285); June, 124,399 (113,900)—total, 761,164 (667,687). It is satisfactory to note that for each month the production was higher than for the same month last year, and that there is a total increase for the half-year of about a hundred thousand tons. The most productive district is that of the Prahova Valley, but it is in the Dambovitza district that the greatest advance has been made this year, the total figure for that district being 169,463 tons, as against 84,937 tons last year. This means that the average production of the Dambovitza district, as compared with that of the other three districts of Prahova, Buzau, and Bacau, has risen from 12.67 per cent. to 22.25 per cent.

A notice appeared in the *Orient* this week to the effect that a large petroleum company was in course of formation under the auspices of Barclay's Bank and the Banca Chrisoveloni. It is said that the capital will be one million sterling, and that the chairman of the company will be the Earl of Ypres.

The Agricultural Position.

The forecasts of the harvest have been proved fairly correct, but the wheat production appears to be rather better than has been expected. According to the official figures of the Statistical Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, the surface sown in wheat this year was 2,683,700 hectares, as against 2,640,600 hectares last year, and the production this year amounts to 40,440,000 hectolitres as compared with 32,687,000 last year. It may be noted that 40 million odd hectolitres is equal to about 300,000 wagons of 10 metric tons.

The surface sown in rye was 263,200 hectares this year and 266,500 hectares in 1922, showing a decrease of 3,300 hectares. But the crop has been a good one, and the production this year is 3,616,500 hectolitres, as against 3,252,000 hectolitres for the larger area in 1922, showing an increase of 364,000 hectolitres.

The areas sown in barley and oats were also larger than last year—barley, 1,959,100 hectolitres against 1,727,400; and oats, 1,355,700 hectolitres against 1,335,500. These crops, however, have been very disappointing, both falling below the figures for last year. The oats crop for this year only amounts to 20,068,000 hectolitres, as against 29,380,000 hectolitres in 1922, while the barley crop has fallen from 32,200,000 hectolitres last year to 23,712,700 hectolitres, a difference of 8,550,000 hectolitres, which is equivalent to over 50,000 wagons.

The following is a summary of the harvest in terms of wagons:—Wheat, 307,344 wagons; rye, 25,700; barley, 149,000. According to a writer in the *Orient*, 90,000 wagons of wheat and rye will be required for home consumption, which would leave 235,000 wagons for export. This the writer considers the utmost possible under present transport conditions, and at the price of 36,000 lei per wagon it represents a revenue of nearly nine milliard lei.

The returns of the maize harvest have not been given definitely, as the maize has not yet been gathered in, but the crop is estimated at about 329,000 wagons. The quantity required for the home market is generally put at 100,000 to 120,000 wagons, which leaves 200,000 wagons for export.

According to the above figures, the total harvest represents about 700,000 wagons, of which about 500,000 would be available for export. This, according to the above writer, is about half what the export capacity of Greater Roumania ought to be. On the other hand, the condition of the railways is such that it will in all probability be impossible to export more than half of the 500,000 wagons available, and the other half, being thrown on the home market, will reduce the home price of grain. From the point of view of the consumer, this is a "consummation devoutly to be wished," but not so in the eyes of the Government exchequer, which has a yearly deficit of some 20 milliard lei to make up.

Cost of Living.

The prices of all commodities are still steadily increasing. The index figures published in the *Argus* of September 1 for August show the average prices of food, clothes, etc., as thirty-four times those of August, 1916. In July there was a slight fall in the average price of food, but it was up again one point in August. Rents are exorbitant, especially when one considers the small degree of comfort afforded by most houses or lodgings.

Miscellaneous.

Mr. Alexander Adams, Commercial Secretary to the British Legation, has returned from leave in England.

By a decision of the Council of Ministers, a Central Danube Navigation Office has been formed, representing Roumanian navigation companies and shipowners on the Danube. One of its functions is said to be the distribution of transports, apparently with a view to minimising competition.

The Société Provençiale de Constructions Navales have laid the keel at La Ciotat of a passenger vessel of the Sphinx type (150 metres long, with a gross tonnage of 12,000 tons), which is to be named Champollion. A sister ship will be built at the same yard. Both vessels will be placed into service on the Mediterranean (Egypt) line of the Messageries Maritimes.

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE IN THE SUDAN

(Continued).

The following further extracts are taken from the report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1922 :—

General.

The statistics of imports and exports indicate clearly that trading conditions in 1922 have been difficult, and that the Sudan has been no exception to the general rule in this respect. There is, however, the consolation that matters might have been much worse, as the export trade, except in cattle and sheep, has been fairly well up to pre-war level; while outside certain special classes of imports, such as those needed for the irrigation work and railway coal, the import trade has not been altogether unsatisfactory. The rains of the summer of 1922 were sufficient to produce a grain crop considerably above the average. Dura has been cheap and plentiful, while an export of some 44,000 tons of dura abroad has produced a fair source of income to the cultivating population in the Gezira. The export of dura to Europe is a new trade which has called for new methods and the substitution of European for Oriental standards of business. If the rains of 1923 are adequate to give an average crop, there is no reason to suppose that the export cannot be maintained, but the margin of profit is so small that any appreciable rise in local prices would render export impossible. There is a large internal trade in dura, but as an article of export it is not to be relied upon like oil-seeds or cotton as a "money" crop.

Labour.—There have been no difficulties during the year in regard to shortage of labour, nor has the cultivating season been characterised by such large seasonal increases in rates of wages as are usual. The wages of unskilled labour in the northern and central parts of the country has been about PT. 4-PT. 6 per diem. There has, in fact, been a considerable surplus of labour in parts of the country, but although, as shown by trade statistics, the purchasing power of the native population has declined, there have been no signs of hardship.

Food Situation.—The recent substantial reduction in the price of sugar should help to remove a common cause of complaint. Prices of other imported articles in use by the native population were less than in 1921, but were still high. As compared with a standard price of 100 before the war, cotton piece-goods averaged 251 and tea 175, but there may be set off against these items dura, average 74, sesame 131 and coffee 109. The fall in the price of meat, flour and fuel has made conditions easier for the foreign population who have also felt the benefit of the fall of manufactured goods in Europe. The situation has undoubtedly been better than in 1921, though such items as rents and clothing are still high in cost.

A number of economic questions of importance have arisen during the year and it is satisfactory to find that the Sudan Chamber of Commerce has continued to take an active part in these matters. The process of readjustment to the more normal conditions now prevailing after the boom of 1920 and the succeeding depression has to be gradual, but considerable progress has been made. It is more generally recognised, for instance, that local prices of produce as well as profits cannot be maintained at a higher level than markets either in the Sudan or abroad will support. Prices of cattle and sheep are now down to pre-war basis. Sesame, on the other hand, though at a price which enables it to sell in considerable quantities in Egypt, apparently cannot be bought at prices which enable an overseas trade to be done. The price of dura has kept down to the level of the European demand, but the need for a clean and uniform quality of grain is not yet fully understood amongst native traders. Two important improvements have been made in the gum trade, viz., by the institution of public auctions under Government supervision at El Obeid, the chief gum market, and more recently by the facility given to exporters to pay royalty at a fixed rate, instead of an *ad valorem* scale. This latter measure is being tried experimentally for a year. The temporary stoppage of the cattle trade with Egypt at what should have been the height of the season involved Sudan traders in heavy losses and it is unlikely that the trade will develop again till next winter.

Port Sudan Shipping.

The year has been remarkable for the amount of shipping calling at Port Sudan, the tonnage using the port being 1,499,935 international tons, of which 1,138,601 tons was British. Tonnage in 1921 was 1,403,587, of which 1,172,934 was British.

The effect of the resumption of work on the Makwar dam, on the Blue Nile, and the Gezira canalisation scheme, and the approaching construction of the Thamiam-Kassala railway, in the Eastern Sudan, is already being felt. These two important developments have already done much to remove the pessimistic feelings of a year ago in regard to the future of Sudan trade. Much interest has latterly been shown both in actual visits to the country, and also in correspondence, in the possibility of trade openings not only in cotton, but in other directions. An indication of these influences is possibly to be found in the rise in the value of building sites and house property in Khartoum. Apart, however, from the cotton growing extensions which are being carried out by the Sudan Plantations Syndicate in the Gezira, no new development enterprises of any importance have been undertaken during the year.

Railways.

The gross revenue of the department has declined from £E2,001,184 in 1921 to £E1,632,297 in 1922. About one-third of this decrease is attributable to the temporary closing down of the work on the Sennar dam, and the remainder to a falling off in traffic, particularly the cattle and sheep traffic, and to certain reductions in surtax. Receipts from cattle traffic were only £E32,643, as against £E54,802 in 1921 and £E138,326 in 1920. The earnings per train kilometre were 11s. 10.2d., as compared with 12s. 9.3d. in 1921. Expenditure shows a decrease from £E1,503,356 to £E1,300,148, due in a large degree to vigorous measures taken to cope with the situation when it appeared early in the year that the revenue would fall considerably short of the estimated figures, a serious matter in a country which is compelled to regard its railways primarily from the point of view of revenue. Staff generally and the mechanical workshop staff in particular were reduced to a bare minimum, and everything except immediate and urgent work postponed. As a result, the net profit of the department was £E332,149, which in all the circumstances is financially very satisfactory. The necessity for renewals to which the general manager has drawn attention in previous reports is receiving the earnest consideration of the Government, and grants are being made as circumstances permit. The resleepering of the Abu Hamed section is being gradually carried through, and a carefully considered programme for the next few years is being prepared, based on actual requirements. The

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economies referred to above, necessitated by the financial situation, have rendered the maintenance of a reasonable degree of efficiency, more especially in the engineering department, increasingly difficult, and the resumption of the work at Makwar and the anticipated increase in traffic requirements will add to the pressure. For the next few years, until the cotton development schemes begin to pay, the problem will be one of combining a rigid economy with the adequate maintenance of transport services, and of a nice adjustment of freights to the trade requirements of the country.

Steamers.

The revenue on all river services was £E44,502 less than that of the previous year. Traffic on the steamers south of Khartoum has been satisfactory, both the Rejaf and Gambeila services showing substantial increases in public traffic over last year. The falling off in Government traffic has exceeded the gain in public traffic, but the net revenue on the whole of this section has improved. There is a heavy leeway from past years to be made up before the condition of the fleet can be considered satisfactory. The last five years have been occupied in keeping things going and getting the dockyard into an efficient condition to cope with the work. The general manager reports that the turning-point has now been reached, and that from now onwards it will be possible not only to keep pace with current work, but also gradually to overhaul the ground lost.

The condition of the rivers has given much anxiety, and the White Nile will certainly be very low again next year. The diversion channel dredged viâ Khor Toor to Meshra-el-Rek early in the year has proved an unqualified success and has obviated the very serious risk of Meshra being entirely cut off.

Port Sudan has again experienced a busy year, and with the anticipated development of export cotton traffic in the next few years it is probable that the quays, which are already liable to overcrowding and congestion, will prove inadequate to the demands made upon them.

Agriculture.

Returns from the various provinces show a total area under crop of 1,588,314 acres, as compared with figures of 2,895,660 last year, which was, however, considerably above the average. The decrease is mainly accounted for by a drop of 1,140,000 acres in dura and 137,000 in dukhn cultivation. Rains were uneven, and abundant grain stocks and poor markets militated against any undue effort on the part of the native to cultivate large areas.

The area under cotton, on the other hand, increased from 81,430 to 84,273 acres, the increase being on land artificially irrigated at the new pumping station of El Hosh, in the Gezira. The erection of this station, which was commenced in April, 1920, finished in July, 1921, and cropped with some 6,000 acres of cotton the same year, represents a noteworthy achievement on the part of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate. The Gezira crops at Tayiba, Barakat, and El Hosh were very satisfactory, and produced a total of 39,400 kantars of cotton, with the high average of 4.01 kantars per acre. At Kassala the 1921 flood of the River Gash, which, at present uncontrolled, will shortly be directed by minor irrigation works, was disappointing, and the area under cultivation in 1922 was less than usual, but at Tokar the cotton area was fairly average, though much below that of the record crop of the previous year. A new supply of sakel seed was obtained from the Gezira, and the quality of the crop was very highly commented on by experts, with the result that many inquiries have been received from outside buyers for the coming year. In Kordofan cotton cultivation was carried out with fair success in the area flooded by the Khor Abu Habl. To provide a ready market, Government purchased the crop from the cultivator, and, as a result of the stimulus thus given, cultivation is being extended to rainland in the neighbourhood. The coming crop is estimated at 1,000 kantars, as against 120 the previous year. Experiments were also carried out to test the possibility of growing cotton on rainland in the Upper Nile Province, which, although on a small scale, have apparently met with success. Rain-grown cotton is also being encouraged in the Blue Nile Province. A new and larger pumping plant has been installed at Shambat, in Khartoum Province, and the whole main canalisation system has been remodelled and enlarged to carry the increased discharge. It is worthy of note that the demoralising effect of the large profits made on cotton in 1920, which turned the cultivator temporarily into a capitalist employer of labour, has now worn off, and the landowners are prepared to work on their land again themselves, which, with normal prices, is the only way they can cultivate successfully. On the pumping schemes of Dongola and Berber Provinces the cotton areas have been largely increased at the expense of the less profitable grain crops, with the view to placing these schemes on a sounder commercial basis. On the whole the period under review has been free of pests. Birds, in particular the Spanish sparrow, rats, bollworm, stemborer, asal and white ants did a certain amount of damage to crops in various parts of the country, but locusts were conspicuous by their absence. Research work, both at Khartoum North and in the Gezira, continues to be prosecuted with vigour. Probably the most important investigation from a practical standpoint is the improvement of cotton, the selection of improved strains being continued on standard lines. A promising American variety named Meade has been recently introduced. A considerable amount of work also has been carried out on wheats and dura.

(To be continued.)

Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, formerly British Commercial Secretary in Greece, has been appointed to succeed Mr. W. F. Vaughan Scott as Commercial Secretary for Czecho-Slovakia, and has taken up his duties at Prague.

Trustees of the Port of Karachi 6 Per Cent. Sterling Debentures, 1922.—Coupons due October 1 will be paid on and after that date, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. (Saturdays excepted), by the Imperial Bank of India, 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C. 3, where forms for listing can be obtained on application. Coupons must be left three clear days for examination.

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INDIA'S PAVILION AT WEMBLEY.

Arts and Crafts Display.

Remarkable progress has been made within the past few weeks with the pavilion India is erecting for next year's British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. Last week the white turrets of the two minarets were put in place, and by the middle of next month the whole of the actual building work will be completed. The decoration will then be put in hand. Much of the plaster work moulding is already lying ready to be put in position as soon as the building is finished.

The Indian Pavilion will stand in 4½ acres of ground, the actual building covering three acres. An arched and crested façade will lead through a gateway 40 feet high to an open colonnade surrounding a sunken courtyard 150 feet square. Steps from this court will lead by a still finer gateway to the main exhibition building. This gateway will be surmounted by a graceful dome of imposing dimensions, and the interior façade, of which it will form the centre, will be flanked by

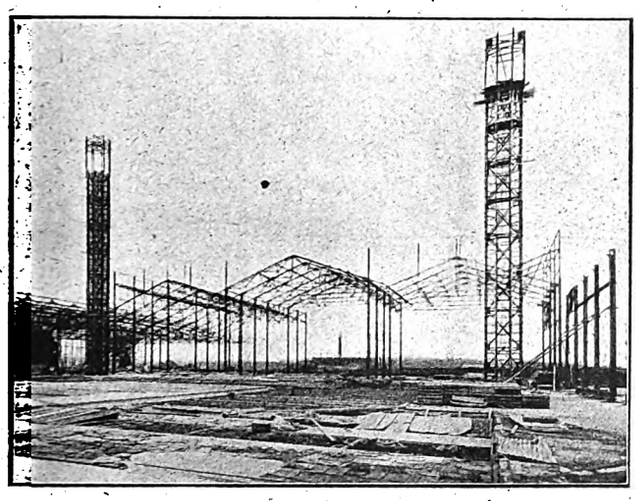

Photo: Campbell Gray.

THE INDIAN PAVILION IN SKELETON.

minarets 110 feet high. The building will be in fibrous plaster on a steel framework, and will reproduce the artistic beauties of the famous Taj Mahal at Agra and the Jama Masjid at Delhi. It will be 140 yards in length and about 130 in its greatest depth.

The peculiar arts and crafts for which India has a world-wide reputation will all be displayed at Wembley, and the show of her metal work, carpets, curtains and carvings in wood and ivory, will be one of the finest ever seen outside India. There will be models showing the Khyber Pass, and those parts of the frontier where the Chitral and Tirah campaigns were fought. Models, again, will show the advance which has been made in railway construction, and the Prince of Wales is lending a model of the saloon built for him in India, which he used on his recent tour.

The activity of India's ports, a very present index of her commercial prosperity, will be a special feature of the pavilion. Visitors will be shown something of the volume of trade which passes through the ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi, and will learn how the various problems peculiar to harbours in the East are dealt with. Indian timber and its uses will form the subject of a particularly attractive and instructive court, where the work of the Indian Forest Department in planting and developing forest areas, and in extending the uses of the many minor forest products, such as oils, dyes, tanning materials, turpentine and resin, will be shown and explained.

Many of the Indian Princes have taken spaces where the varied resources of their States will be shown on a scale never attempted before. Each State, and each Province, is personally undertaking the arrangements of its court. This is a system which has never been attempted in any previous exhibition, and it is hoped that a very marked extension of markets for Indian goods will result.

To those interested in shikar the collection of trophies, arranged in appropriate surroundings by Mr. Rowland Ward, should be attractive, while a collection of botanical specimens will provide a pleasant half hour for the student. The grounds surrounding the Pavilion will be tastefully laid out, and the visitor will be able to refresh himself—or herself—with tea made as it should be made, under the shade of the trees which stand on the north side of the grounds, or to lunch off the Indian curries and palaos which will be made the special feature of the restaurant.

Burma, though administratively a part of India, will be housed in a very handsome pavilion of its own, on grounds immediately adjoining.

AN ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF IMPERIAL TRADE.

The Federation of British Industries have been actively engaged for some time in examining the question of inter-Imperial trade. The labour involved during this investigation in collecting and collating economic information about the Empire, and particularly as to its resources and requirements in raw materials, led the Federation to believe that a comprehensive survey in a form convenient for easy reference by the ordinary business man would be of very substantial value in promoting the development of Empire trade. They have therefore undertaken the compilation of a comprehensive survey of the resources and possibilities of the Empire.

The idea is to collect all available information likely to be of service to the producer of raw materials, the manufacturer, the merchant, or the financial house, and, in fact, to compile a convenient encyclopædia of Imperial trade. The various Governments of the Empire are assisting in supplying much of the information upon which the work will be based. The survey, which will be in ten volumes, will cover the resources of the Empire in food and raw materials, and also the requirements, present and prospective, in relation to production.

The Prince of Wales is contributing a Foreword to the series, in which he recommends the survey to the attention of "all those who have at heart the proper organisation of the Empire's natural wealth." It is hoped that the series will be complete by the spring of 1924, and the publication will thus coincide appropriately with the opening of the British Empire Exhibition,

The following will be the titles of the volumes:—Vol. 1, Food Supplies; Vol. 2, Timber and Timber Products; Vol. 3, Rubber, Tea, Coffee, and Spices; Vol. 4, Textiles and Textile Yarns; Vol. 5, Leather, Hides, Furs, etc.; Vol. 6, Fuel; Vol. 7, Metals and Minerals; Vol. 8, Oils and Fats; Vol. 9, Chemicals, Dyes, and Fertilisers; Vol. 10, Communications.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97$\frac{3}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	255—265
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	410-430
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.43-25.46
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{5}{32}$-1.4$\frac{3}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	84.30-84.40
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	960-980
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{5}{32}$-1.4$\frac{3}{16}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	755-775
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.55⅞-4.56
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	73.70—73.80
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151¼
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	99¼-99½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450-490
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,375,000*

* Nominal.

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CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The Commercial Treaty between Czecho-Slovakia and Great Britain, which came into force provisionally (pending ratification) on September 1, secures to the subjects, goods, products and vessels of each party in the territory of the other treatment as favourable as that accorded to the subjects, etc., of any other country, in all matters of commerce and navigation, customs duties, taxation and treatment of commercial travellers and their samples.

Neither imports nor exports are to be subjected to higher dues, etc., than those obtaining for exports and imports to and from other countries. Certificates of origin may be required and the parties will examine the possibility of issuing such certificates without consular fee. Where import licences are in force, the licensing system is not to be worked to cause discrimination against the other country's goods, etc. So long as this system prevails in Czecho-Slovakia, British goods are to be admitted to an annual amount to be agreed upon.

England or any other part of the British Empire may take anti-dumping measures against Czecho-Slovakian goods under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1921, but only after giving three months' notice. Concessions granted to Austria and Hungary by Czecho-Slovakia in virtue of the Peace Treaties, or special arrangements made regarding small frontier traffic (within a zone of 15—20 kilometres) do not affect this treaty.

Passenger and freight tariffs on each other's vessels shall be such as granted to the most favoured foreign country. There shall be parity of taxation, and limited liability, and other companies of the one country shall be able to exercise their legal rights in the territory of the other. The most favoured nation terms apply to commercial travellers and their samples. The terms of the treaty are to apply to other parts of the British Empire than the United Kingdom only on the expressed desire of the British Government to this effect. Nevertheless, British Colonial goods are to enjoy most favoured nation treatment in Czecho-Slovakia so long as Czecho-Slovakian goods enjoy such treatment in those colonies.

The treaty is concluded for a term of five years, and if not terminated after four years by twelve months' notice is automatically renewed until the expiration of one year from the date on which either of the contracting parties shall have denounced it.

With regard to the annual amount of British goods to be admitted to Czecho-Slovakia as mentioned above, the organ of the Federation of Czecho-Slovakian Industries, the *Prumyslovy Vestnik* gives the following list of main contingents agreed upon: Industrial oils and fats, 10,000 tons; steam boilers and engines, 5,000 tons; fertilizers (except superphosphate), 5,000 tons; cocoa (unground), 3,500; rubber, textile machinery, 2,500; tanned extract, 2,000; smoked herrings, 1,500; cotton goods, woollen yarns, leather and chemicals, 1,500 tons each; sewing cotton, etc., 1,000; rubber goods, soaps, 1,000 each; unpacked tea, 800; woollen goods, 750; pigs, jute yarns, leather goods, lubricating oils, 500 each; tinned fruit, 300; spirits in cask and bottles, cutlery and apparatus, 250 each; chocolate and sweets, tinned fish, jam in pots, motor and motor-cycle parts, electrical goods, tar and by-products, dyes and by-products, 200; artificial silk, 100; paper, 125 tons. Other contingents include 50,000 felt and straw hats, 500 motor-cycles, 150 motor-cars, 150 motor-lorries, 50 tractors.

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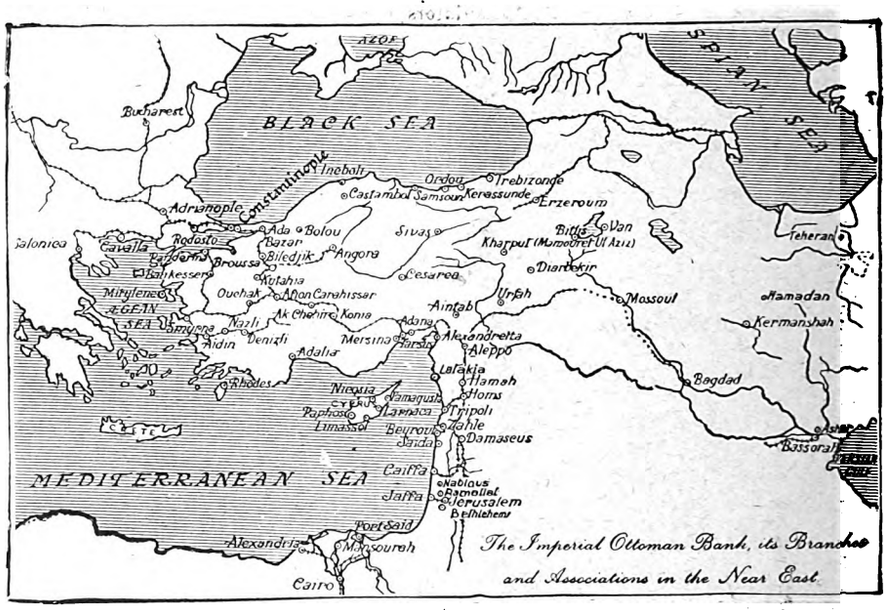

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Active and Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 14, state:—

Since our last report, the futures market has been very active and prices very firm. The rise secured during the week is mainly due to the strength of the New York market and the improved demand from abroad, especially from America and the Continent. Speculators have been very active; the rumour that America was in the market for Uppers was spread here early in the week, and October from $29 was pushed up to $32.50 in two sessions, although profit-taking has caused prices to drop back about $1¼ from the best. The difference between October and November was at one time quoted as low as $3, but a reaction during to-day's session closed it at $3.87 against $4.35 a week ago; however, it is quite possible that the difference will again narrow in the course of the next few weeks, as we understand that the October position has recently gone into strong hands and it is said to be the intention of the buyers to receive any cotton which may be tendered. It is to this fact also that the narrowing of the premium of December over October must be attributed. We are of the opinion that the future course of prices will be entirely ruled by the extent of this year's demand; should this be about the same size as last year, higher prices are bound to be witnessed later on in the season in view of the prospective supplies of the season being limited. We very much doubt whether the carry over up-country at the end of last August was over 100,000 krs., as against 1,000,000 krs. last year, and the stock in Alexandria at the same date was only 837,702 krs. against 1,332,000 krs. a year ago. It is true that the crop is expected this year to be larger than the crop of last year, but even provided present good prospects materialise, the additional production will be far from large enough to counterbalance the above mentioned difference in the carry over. Taking into consideration the difference in the exchange we do not consider that prices of Egyptian are dear compared to American, and should say that any further advance in New York would be fully responded to here, whereas a decline would not be followed to the same extent.

Spot.—A good business has been done at Minet-el-Bassal this week, and sales amount to about 13,000 bales, of which we estimate 5,600 bales Sakellaridis, 7,300 bales Uppers, and 100 bales Pilion. Considerable interest has been shown in new Uppers and the bulk of the arrivals this week has been readily absorbed; spinners have shown more readiness to buy than for some time.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the majority of the demand has been for the medium qualities. Prices of spot against contracts are very firm and inclined to harden.

Uppers.—A good business has been done mainly in high grades. Prices of spot against contracts are quite steady with a hardening tendency, especially in the lower grades, which have once more been in fair demand, though in small supply.

Brown and White.—Are neglected; but a small business in Pilion is reported. Quotations of Spot, Brown, and Pilion are steady, but White is easier.

Crop 1923.—Picking is in full swing in Upper Egypt, and new cotton is now coming down to Alexandria regularly. The prospects for a more successful crop than last year appear to be confirmed. In Lower Egypt the general condition of the plant is fairly good, but the position is still somewhat uncertain owing to the lateness of the crop. Three or four weeks of warm weather would make a great difference on the size of the crop.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Marked Advance in Futures.

Messrs Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 19:—

Egyptian Futures.—The Egyptian "futures" market during the past week has shown a decidedly steady tone, and a marked advance in values, due chiefly to the sustained enquiry from the spot and the sharp rise in the American market, has resulted. In the early part of the week purchases against spots were very much in evidence, but later the chief support came from Continental and Eastern interests. However, during the last day or two profit-taking by a few of the local "bulls," coupled with small foreign selling orders (against straddle purchases of American), caused a certain amount of easiness, with the result that we close to-night some 25 points below the best of the week.

The American market still rules the situation, and is likely to continue to do so, which is equivalent to saying that, in our opinion, we have not yet seen the top of the market for this season. No doubt, as the stock in Liverpool (already above normal for the time of the year) is augmented by shipments of new crop cotton, we shall see a decline from to-day's level, but, barring unforeseen complications from outside sources, everything at present points to any such decline being of a temporary nature only. The Alexandria market has not been quite so excited this week. The American buying of Uppers, referred to in our last report, has evidently not been maintained, as the October position has widened out considerably, as compared with the Sakel contract. Trade reports continue good, and, at the moment, the bread-and-butter qualities of Egyptian cotton in Liverpool are dwindling very rapidly. Summing up, we consider that for the next week or two prices will probably maintain to-day's levels.

Egyptian Spot.—The rise in the price of the raw material which has continued this week shows few signs of abating. A certain proportion of the trade are holding aloof from the market, professing a distrust of current prices, and relying on a setback sooner or later which will enable them to come in and fulfil their requirements on a cheaper basis than is possible to-day. This policy has often proved a very expensive one in the past, and it may do so again. On the other hand, many spinners have been caught short of cotton, as we pointed out last week, and these have literally been driven into the market by the necessity of keeping their machinery in action. On the whole, the balance appears to rest with the second category, for, in spite of a superficial falling away in the daily enquiry, the amount of actual business transacted showed a substantial increase on the previous week's total. The greater part of the sales have been composed of Sakellaridis cotton of the Fully Good Fair to Strict Fully Good Fair variety, a prominent local house disposing of a line of this cotton at 95 points on November contracts. It was eagerly snapped up—some of it by speculators. Similar cotton to-day fetches 125 to 150 on, and there does not appear to be much of it even at that price. A certain amount of trading has taken place in cotton verging on Good at from 150 to 200 on, but beyond this figure business has been very patchy.

The scramble for Uppers (which are not available) has continued, and many spinners are evidently going to be hard put to it to bridge over the gap which still exists before the arrival of the new crop cotton. No doubt, before long, the weight of the cotton coming on the market will considerably modify the existing situation, but for the time being famine prices are being asked—and paid. There are signs of a revival of the enquiry for White cotton, but this seems to be a little premature, and results so far are poor. Sudan cotton has been practically neglected by spinners after the small boom it enjoyed last week, and Brown cotton has entirely faded out of the picture for the time being.

Official trade reports from Manchester have been consistently good all the week, but these are not always borne out by private individuals. Spinners are finding the new price levels a hard pill to swallow, as is evidenced by the pathetically low bids they make, especially for c.i.f. cotton. It has, indeed, been a most disappointing week, so far as forward deliveries are concerned.

Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 14th inst. were returned as 4,984 bales, the comparatively small figure being due to mill holidays. Total sales estimated 5,000 bales, plus 100 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised 55 points for F.G.F. and below; 40 points for Good; and 20 points for Extra Fine. Brown and Uppers are advanced 40 points. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 18.50d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business during the past week has again been under the influence of the continued rise in the price of the raw staple, and transactions which a week ago looked like being on the point of conclusion have become each day more impracticable. Whether buyers will readily adjust themselves to the new basis of prices still remains to be seen, but up to the present they have certainly shown little disposition to purchase in excess of their immediate requirements.

Yarn.—Business in this section has been of smaller dimensions, the steady upward movement in American raw cotton

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acting as a strong check to the conclusion of business. The decision to continue the 50 per cent. curtailment of production does not betoken much confidence in renewed activity at present prices, although here and there certain mills are said to be active independently of the recommendations of the Master Cotton Spinners' Federation in this respect. India has bought a few moderate lines, and a certain number of transactions have been put through for the Near East for the special variety known as "extra hard." Prices generally are reported as being ¾d. per lb. higher than those prevailing a week ago.

Cloth.—Although there has been a larger enquiry, the proportion of actual business done has contracted towards the end of the week and buyers are very shy of following the higher quotations now ruling. Miscellaneous trade has been done, however, in stock lots, mainly where holders are prepared to accept bids below the cost of producton based on current raw cotton values. India has operated in a small way, but neither in this direction nor in China has there been evidence of much real activity. Assorted purchases are reported for South America, Egypt, and minor markets, but the Home trade has only bought from hand to mouth.

Raw Cotton.—Prices during the week have shown considerable strength on short crop prospects and continued reports of bad weather in Texas and other parts of the American cotton belt. A current feature which is not without interest and which may have lasting results is the increasing willingness of spinners, under present conditions, to purchase miscellaneous cottons, such as those grown in Peru and Brazil, which has hitherto been subject to a good deal of prejudice.

Closing prices are as follows.—American Fully Middling, 18.35; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.85.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 8:—

Sultanas.—The arrivals on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are put at 6,757 tons, as against 6,030 tons for the corresponding period of 1922. Sales to date are estimated at 5,382 tons, as compared with 5,200 tons at this time last year. The total shipments to the United Kingdom to date are 2,005 (3,042) tons, to the Continent 430 (2,000) tons, and to the U.S.A., Canada, and elsewhere 485 (140) tons, the figures in brackets representing the corresponding totals for last year.

Market Conditions.—Exchanges throughout this week have been slowly declining, increasing quotations slightly in foreign currencies. On the other hand, the market has weakened to some extent, and on balance foreign equivalents are on a lower level than the previous week's closing level. Dealers are putting up a very strong resistance against a further decline in local currency, and the future course of prices should be largely governed by exchange rates. Farmers are losing money on their produce at current prices, and were it not for the absence of storing accommodation in the interior through the devastation of last September, there is no doubt that arrivals would have been greatly curtailed, thus reducing pressure to sell in order to move off fruit. Practically the whole crop has now been harvested, and the weakness in prices may be largely attributed to the anxiety of sellers to market the surplus supplies over what can be stored before the weather breaks. As the farmers lighten themselves, a reaction is likely to follow on the present depression, but this may not set in immediately, in spite of the fact that the current low prices are attracting increased business. The shortage in unsold consignments in the large distributing centres will become visible from the middle to the end of this month.

To-morrow is the anniversary of the re-entry of the Turks into Smyrna. A glance into the statistical position will indicate the bearing of last year's events on the trade movement. From September 1 to 9 the arrivals of fruit from the interior into the market here showed a marked falling off. *Per contra*, shippers' efforts were directed towards clearing off their stocks on to the various steamers in port. Throughout the month of September, last year's business was practically paralysed, and was resumed under very altered conditions early in October. Notwithstanding that, a good deal of fruit was destroyed last year during the September events, yet the loss of the September market, and the consequent accumulation of stocks, coupled with the heavy shipments of outside growths to consuming markets attracted by the high level of prices ruling, brought disaster. Conditions this year are shaping on more healthy lines.

Figs.—Business has been at a standstill throughout the week owing to the stoppage in arrivals by reason of the railway strike. One or two enterprising shippers have organised a transport service from the fig districts to Smyrna by camel, which entails a three to four days' journey and a marked addition to cost. An early settlement of the strike is, however, expected.

ENGINEERING TOPICS.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

The Dunlop Rubber Company.

A stand of special interest at the Commercial Vehicle Show at Olympia will be that of the Dunlop Rubber Company, whose exhibits, I understand, will include all types of Dunlop solid tyres (including super-cushion), segmental tractor tyres, and industrial trolley tyres. Aerocore tyres are also to be shown, as well as giant pneumatics in both straight side and beaded edge types. There will be, further, a display of Dunlop wheel equipment.

The company manufactures solid tyres in sizes and types suitable for every equipment. Two distinct qualities are available: standard quality solid rubber tyres, and super-cushion (highly resilient) solid rubber tyres. The former is well known for its toughness and durability, and is probably the most widely used solid tyre in the country. The super-cushion quality is a solid tyre of a specially resilient and softer type—designed to meet the requirements of those services where provision must be made for a greater degree of cushioning capacity than is provided by the ordinary solid tyre, and where the use of pneumatics or semi-pneumatics is not regarded as practicable. It is claimed for Dunlop super-cushion tyres that they have a capacity for shock absorption approximately one-third greater than that of ordinary solids.

The Dunlop "giant single" solid tyre is an important development, and is designed to replace twin tyres on rear wheels. Its main advantages lie in the more correct distribution of the load and the bigger road contact area which is provided. The giant single, of course, eliminates one of the chief destructive features in the case of twins, viz., "trapped" stones. The trapping of stones is impossible with the giant single tyre, which, in addition, is less liable to damage by the cutting action of stones owing to it having only two side faces instead of four, as in the case of twin tyres. The segmental tractor tyre, as its name implies, is supplied in segments, three or four in number, according to size. This tyre is an entirely new development in rubber tyre construction, and is intended to permit the use of agricultural tractors for road purposes. Industrial trolley tyres are designed for electric trucks, now so widely used as a labour-saving device in the movement of merchandise in railway stations, factories, warehouses, etc. The Dunlop aerocore tyre has for its main features permanent cushioning capacity, durability, and unique simplicity of attachment. It meets the demand for tyre equipment combining the cushioning capacity of the pneumatic with the durability of the solid tyre. The aerotyre is fully described in a special leaflet issued by the Dunlop Company.

An Order-in-Council, dated August 16, 1923, which came into force in Cyprus on August 17, imposes the following increased *ad valorem* rates of import duty on the undermentioned articles: Timber and wood, including firewood, 25 per cent.; articles of food and drink not otherwise charged with duty, 10 per cent.; goods, ware and merchandise not otherwise charged with duty nor exempted from duty and not prohibited to be imported, 15 per cent.

Holders in the United Kingdom of bonds of the Greek Five Per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893 are advised that they may lodge at Hambros Bank, Ltd., 45, Bishopsgate, the talons from such bonds, in order to obtain new coupon sheets as soon as same are received from the Greek Government. Talons must be listed in duplicate on the forms, which can be obtained on application at 45, Bishopsgate, and same should be lodged on or before October 1. The talons should not be forwarded through the post, but should be presented through a banker or other London agent.

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Shipping Intelligence.

TRIAL TRIP OF MOOLTAN.

Largest P. and O. Liner.

The new P. and O. liner Mooltan, the largest vessel in the company's fleet, being 20,800 tons gross, after undergoing official trials at the entrance to Belfast Lough on September 21, left on the following day on its maiden voyage to London with a distinguished party on board.

The company, who were conveyed by a special steamer from Fleetwood, included Lord Inchcape, chairman of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company; Viscount Pirrie, chairman of Messrs. Harland and Wolff; Viscount Churchill, Viscount Peel, Secretary of State for India; the Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, Lord Glanely, Lord Inverforth, Earl Winterton, M.P., Sir Montagu Turner, Sir Donald MacLean, Mr. H. N. Pollock, Minister of Finance, Northern Ireland; Mr. Edward Shortt, K.C., Sir George H. Murray, Sir William Corry, Sir Davison Dalziel, Sir Ernest W. Glover, Sir Walter Lawrence, Sir Charles Addis, Sir Alan Anderson, Sir James Brunyate, Sir Henry Howard, Sir George Murray, Captain Sir Frank Notley, Sir John Denison-Pender, Colonel Sir Sydney Wishart, Sir Trevredyn R. Wynne, Mr. F. A. Hook, Mr. James Sexton, M.P., and Mr. J. Havelock Wilson.

A ship in the trade to Australia via Suez that can house, dine, and sleep in approved comfort 656 first and second saloon passengers on levels two tiers or more above the main deck must be, in size, above the average to which the trade is accustomed. The Mooltan is Messrs. Harland and Wolff's latest finished production, and is, in fact, the largest ship in the trade, and the largest yet designed to pass through the Suez Canal. In size, 21,000 gross tons, she equals the moderately big ships of the Atlantic. She is a noble-looking vessel, a typical P. and O., and reproduces in her visible lines that roundness or softness of contour which, as old travellers to Sydney will remember so notably distinguished the two Belfast ships of the 'eighties, the Arcadia and Oceana. This absence of anything approaching sharpness of line is accentuated in the Mooltan by her cruiser stern. A notable feature of the vessel is the excellence of her second saloon accommodation, which shares the advantages of the first-class in that all cabins are port-hole cabins and that the broad central fore and aft spaces on the bridge and shelter deck, dividing the port cabins from those of the starboard side, are filled by continuous ranges of bathrooms and offices. No one, therefore, need go far for a bath. There are berths for 327 first and 329 second-class passengers.

The great length (625 ft.) and beam (73 ft.) resulting from the Mooltan's huge tonnage has rendered possible a very compact, roomy, and convenient arrangement of her passenger accommodation, and full advantage has been taken of this in the ship's design.

To describe the ship in broad outline, the forward portion of the promenade deck is occupied by a range of single-berth and two-berth cabins, with port-holes opening on to the deck, among which are four suites, panelled in sycamore and furnished in Louis XVI. style, with a private bath-room adjoining; here also are other bathrooms for general use. Abaft these cabins is the first-class reading and music saloon, panelled and framed in sycamore stained silver grey. Abaft of and detached from the music-room is the first saloon lounge and divan. From the lounge a short vestibule leads to the first-class smoke-room. This, again, is a spacious apartment, 9 ft. 6 in. in height, surmounted by an elaborately decorated stained-glass dome. The walls are panelled and framed in cedar wood, and large French windows, arranged in pairs, give a charming effect to the whole. Access is had at the after end of the smoke-room to a sheltered veranda, with seats, tables, and wicker furniture, which forms one of the ship's special attractions. The after part of this deck affords a wide promenade for second saloon passengers.

The bridge deck is, as to four-fifths of its length, occupied by passenger cabins of the first and second class. Those of the first class are arranged in three-tier sets, each receiving air and light from its own porthole. These tiers consist respectively of three-berth cabins, in pairs, arranged about an inner pair of two-berth cabins, those again enclosing centrally a single-berth cabin, all being entered from a short central alley-way. The same arrangement exists in the second saloon portion, with the exception that the first pair of the series are four-berth cabins, the second pair and the cabin centrally placed being each arranged for two occupants. At the after end of this deck and adjoining one another are the second saloon smoking and music saloons, both of ample dimensions; with comfortable furniture, and walled in pine, finished white, and mahogany respectively.

Midway on the shelter deck below, and filling half its length, are the first and second dining saloons. The first dining saloon, receiving natural light and air on both sides from 36 large portholes, has seating accommodation for 330 passengers. The room is panelled in the Georgian style and finished throughout in ivory white. The second dining saloon is also finished in ivory white with a mahogany dado. Forward of the first dining saloon are more first-class cabins, also arranged on the three-tier or tandem plan, all with outside portholes, and with plenty of bathrooms amidships; aft of the second dining saloon are triple-tiered cabins of the second class on the port and starboard sides, again with ample bath accommodation amidships.

The Mooltan has two elliptical funnels of somewhat remarkable dimensions and two pole masts. She is divided by eleven bulkheads into twelve watertight compartments, and her double bottom, consisting of oil and water ballast tanks, extends throughout her entire length. She has, like other ships of the fleet to which she belongs, large mail, bullion, and baggage rooms and insulated store rooms for the carriage of her provisions, and her holds also are insulated for the carriage homewards from Australia of the large quantities of refrigerated produce which she will be capable of stowing.

She is propelled by twin screws actuated by two sets of inverted, direct-acting, quadruple-expansion engines, balanced, to eliminate vibration, on the Yarrow-Schlick-Tweedy system, and driven by steam, at a working pressure of 215 lb. to the square inch, from six double-ended and two single-ended cylindrical boilers, whose furnaces burn oil fuel under forced draught. The condensers are of the three-flow type with independent air and circulating pumps, electrically driven, and the auxiliary machines all work independently of the main engines. The engine and boiler rooms are ventilated by powerful electric fans.

NEW BRITISH INDIA STEAMER.

The steamer Talma, which has been built for the British India Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., by Messrs. R. and W. Hawthorn Leslie and Co., Ltd., recently underwent a successful trial off the river Tyne. The dimensions of the vessel are: Length overall, 467 ft.; breadth, 59½ ft.; depth, 40 ft. The Talma has been built to Lloyd's highest class. Spacious accommodation is provided for the passengers, the state-rooms being fitted with special berths, constant supply of fresh water, etc. The vessel has a complete installation of electric lights, and is provided with a complete system of mechanical ventilation. The first-class passengers are on the promenade and bridge decks, with the dining saloon at the fore end of the bridge deck, and music and smoke rooms on the promenade deck. The smoke room is panelled in oak and fitted up in the Jacobean style. Accommodation for the second-class passengers is provided on the after end of the promenade deck and on and under the bridge deck, the dining saloon being at the after end of the bridge deck. The vessel has single-screw inverted direct-acting quadruple expansion engines, the cylinders of which are 29 in., 41½ in., 59 in., 85 in. by 54 in. stroke.

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FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 6).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Maimyo for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 6); s.s. Matheran for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 11); s.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 10); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Warfield for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 6); s.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 12); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 13).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Cumming for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 3); s.s. Clan Ranald for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 16).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Rotenfels for Persian Gulf (London, September 28).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of London (Birkenhead, October 2); s.s. City of Simla (Birkenhead, October 12).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Andalusian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 20).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Gourko for Malta and Alexandria (London, October 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

Moss Line.—S.s. Hatasu for Gibraltar, Oran, Algiers, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 6).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Flaminian for Oran, Algiers, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna and Constantza (Liverpool, September 29).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mooltan for Bombay (London, October 5); s.s. China for Bombay (London, October 19); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Barsi Light Railway.

The report of the Barsi Light Railway Company for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings for the year, less Indian income tax and super tax, amounted to £52,170 6s. 3d., or, adding the exchange adjustments of £1,115 3s. 9d., £53,285 10s. After providing the interest on the Debenture stock, £5,600, and the interest and sinking fund instalment, etc, on the "Latur Extension" Debentures, £5,652, there is left £42,033 10s., which, with the balance of £10,649 10s. 2d. brought forward from the previous year, makes £52,683 0s. 2d. at credit of net revenue account. The directors have transferred £6,941 16s. 10d. to credit of reserve account for the equalisation of dividends, etc., which account now stands at £160,000; £3,000 to taxation reserve account, as a provision for corporation profits tax and income tax, and £1,000 to the staff provident fund as a special bonus. An interim dividend of 3 per cent. and bonus of 2 per cent. (or 10s. per share) was paid on April 19 last, and the directors now recommend that a final dividend of 3 per cent., with a bonus of 4 per cent. (14s. per share in all) be paid. This will make a total distribution of 12 per cent. for the year, and leave £10,541 3s. 4d. to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, October 3, 2.30 p.m.

Anglo-Austrian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Austrian Bank, Ltd., for the period from the incorporation of the company, viz., March 27, 1922, to December 31, 1922, states that the net profit for the year 1922 amounted to £70,776. Of this sum a proportion has to be capitalised, representing the profit attributable to the period prior to the date of commencement of business by the new English company. This amount, which has been transferred to an opening reserve account, is £25,156, leaving a balance for the nine months of £45,620. The directors recommend a dividend of 6d. per share, free of British income-tax, on the ordinary shares, which will absorb £25,000, leaving to be carried forward £20,620. During the year additional capital was provided by the issue for cash at par of 400,000 6 per cent. non-cumulative participating preference shares of £1 each. These shares, however, only rank for dividend as from January 1, 1923. The year under review was one of considerable difficulty in all the Central European countries in which the bank is interested. The violent fluctuations in exchange were the cause of great industrial and financial uncertainty.

The position in Austria has now greatly improved, and the rate of exchange has practically remained stable since September, 1922. The confidence thereby engendered has been reflected in a steady increase of deposits and in the number of new accounts opened with the bank by Austrian and other clients. The position in Hungary has not yet been readjusted, though efforts are being made to cope with the situation on lines similar to those adopted for Austria, which it is hoped will also prove successful. In spite of the conditions referred to above, the bank has been able to consolidate its position, and, taking all circumstances into account, to earn reasonable profits on its capital. There is still much to be done, and it must be borne in mind that the beneficial effects of the bank's reconstitution, particularly as to the development of the relations of the London financial market with Central Europe, must be gradual, and cannot be fully realised for a considerable time. The directors, in view of all the circumstances, feel that the improvement in the position during 1922 justifies them in regarding the future with confidence, and in looking to a gradual and careful development of business. Meeting, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., September 28, noon.

NEW COMPANIES.

Continental Contractors.

Continental Contractors, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £52,500 in 50,000 ordinary shares of £1 each and 50,000 deferred shares of 1s. each. Objects: To establish, carry on, and finance import, export, and internal business in and with persons, firms, companies, corporations, and authorities in Russia and other countries in Eastern Europe, to acquire and deal in plant, machinery, live and dead stock, lands and buildings, etc. Registered office: 3, London Wall Avenue, E.C.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Roumania.

Bronze Bearings.—Tenders are invited by the Roumanian State Railways for seven lots of bronze bearings (cousinets on bronze) fitted with white metal adjusting pieces for grease boxes. October 20. (D.O.T.)

Egypt.

Clothing.—The General Manager, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs and Telephones, Cairo Station, invites tenders for the supply of clothing for summer, 1924, and the winter, 1924-1925. November 8.

Generator, etc.—The Director of Stores, Ministry of Education, Sharia Qasr el Aini, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of one generator, two electric motors (12 h.p.), two electric motors (6 h.p.), with necessary switchboards, etc., required for Cairo Model Workshops. October 27.

Asylum Stores.—Tenders are invited for the supply of stores required for the use of the Abbassia and Khanka Asylums, during the twelve months commencing April 1, 1924. The goods required include clothing, woollen blankets, bed sheets, pillow cases, and small quantities of miscellaneous items of equipment, such as bedsteads, brushes and brooms, cooking and kitchen utensils, cutlery, crockery, aluminium ware, etc. Tenders will be received at the Lunacy Division, Abbassia, up till noon on November 3, 1923. (D.O.T.)

The International Agricultural Exhibition, which was to have been held at Adana in November, has been postponed to May, 1924.

Harrisons and Crosfield.—Dividend on the cumulative preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the three months ending September 30.

Bulgaria's tobacco crop this year is estimated to amount to about 50,000,000 kilogrammes. If this production is realised, it will be the largest crop ever grown in Bulgaria.

Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways. A final dividend of 2½ per cent., plus a bonus of 5 per cent., both less tax, on capital stock for year to March 31 last will be recommended at the general meeting.

It is reported from Vienna that Mr. Washburn, the United States Minister in Vienna, has accepted the invitation of the Austrian and Yugoslav Governments to act as arbitrator on conflicting interpretations of articles of an agreement concluded two years ago between the Yugoslav Government and an Austrian merchant syndicate.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 647—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Corfu Indemnity.

For the honour of Great Britain, it is to be hoped that the last has not been heard of the act of the Conference of Ambassadors in confiscating for Italy's benefit the fifty million lire deposited by Greece as security for the reparation demanded from her for the murder of General Tellini and his colleagues. At present all that the world knows is that the Italian Government claimed payment of the full amount of the deposit in the event of Greece being found to have been negligent in the measures taken to arrest the assassins. The decision on this point was to rest with the Conference of Ambassadors, and to be based on the evidence of the Inter-Allied Commission superintending the inquiry in Epirus. Accounts vary as to the tenour of the *interim* report submitted by the Commission after five days' investigation, but the Conference of Ambassadors decided at once that the deposit should be forfeited. In no quarter outside Italy does there appear to be any endorsement of this action, which was, in any case, precipitate. The amount of the deposit, it was held from the outset, was out of all proportion to the circumstances of the crime, unless it could be shown that Greek officials deliberately plotted the murders. Of this there is no suggestion, and all that the Conference of Ambassadors has been able to allege is remissness on the part of subordinate officials on the spot in carrying out an impossible task.

Great Britain's Responsibility.

The impression conveyed in all the circumstances is that the Conference was actuated solely by political considerations entirely outside the issue between Italy and Greece. The action of the Italian Government has been perfectly consistent. It was bent on exacting excessive reparations, even in the matter of an indemnity. When the Ambassadors intervened, they succeeded in investing the murders with their proper international character, and the question of the indemnity was to be transferred to a Hague tribunal. In all this the British Government appeared to be exercising a salutary influence, and it was not imagined that the Italian claim to the forfeiting of the deposit would be lightly conceded. Responsibility for the Ambassadors' decision, which was unanimous, will be fastened upon Great Britain, and it is most desirable that a clear statement should be made of the reasons for British acquiescence in the confiscation of the money. The Treaty of Lausanne, it was hoped, marked the beginning of a new era for British influence in the Near East, when the purely opportunist considerations introduced by Mr. Lloyd George would be abandoned for a settled policy, in which Great Britain would once more come forward as the protector of small States. Unless a good case can be made out for the British action in regard to the Corfu indemnity Great Britain is in danger not only of sacrificing her reputation in the East for straightforward dealing, but also of setting an example of cynical indifference to the dictates of justice, which in the future will find many imitators.

The Bulgarian Rising.

The Bulgarian Government has remained master of the situation in the face of the Peasant revolt; but its experiences will have satisfied it that the *coup d'état* of June 9 was by far the easiest part of its programme for the rehabilitation of the country. Risings have been sufficiently widespread to indicate the seriousness of the cleavage between peasants and the so-called *bourgeoisie*, and it should be the first task of the Government to set about healing the breach. The peasants will have been in part encouraged by Communist doctrines, and may even to a small extent have been actuated by a desire to avenge the fall of the Stambolisky Government; but it is at least equally probable that a common motive for the rising has been found in the instincts of self-preservation. The former régime, considering itself representative of 90 per cent. or more of the population, was prepared to break opposition to its rule by the complete elimination, physical or political, of its opponents, and, no doubt, thought itself justified in this procedure by the advantages that unity might bring to Bulgaria. Its views and policy were wrong; but for the new régime to practise similar methods of moulding the country as a whole to its own line of thought would lack even the justification of the majority argument. If the rising has opened

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the eyes of the present Government to the danger of continuing the traditional Balkan system of "downing" political opponents it will have done good. M. Zankoff has made a satisfactory beginning in promising an amnesty to the rank and file of the insurrectionary movement; the next step is to teach every Bulgarian that a man who happens to disagree with him on political matters is not necessarily an arch-traitor, and that politics must not be allowed to subordinate the welfare of the people and country as a whole to party advantages.

The Greek Refugee Loan.

The final details of the scheme for dealing with Greece's refugee problem on a scientific basis were approved by the Council of the League of Nations last week. A provisional advance of a million sterling has been offered by the Bank of England, and the League's duty was to appoint a Refugees Settlement Commission to take charge of the settlement scheme. The Commission receives in the first instance from the Greek Government an area of land of not less than 1,235,000 acres in extent suitable for settlement. Certain Greek revenues are earmarked for the interest and amortisation of the loan, and the funds of the Commission will be augmented by the taxes paid by refugees and any sales of land that may be effected. There is to be no expenditure for the relief of distress or for other charitable purpose; but the loan will be used for productive work, whether on the land or in industry. Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Vice-President of the Near East Relief, is chairman of the Refugees Settlement Commission, and Colonel John Campbell of the Indian Civil Service is one of the members. The operations of the Commission will be followed with the keenest interest; for, in view of the number of refugees involved—a substantial proportion of the total population of Greece—it is evident that success will not only go far to meeting the refugee problem, but will also prove of lasting benefit to Greece.

What is "Indian"?

Study of the news from India which is published in this country leads to the conclusion that the word "Indian" has lost the tolerably precise significance which it used to bear. Formerly it was applied to matters which concerned the country as a whole, but it is now employed to an increasing extent as a label for anything affecting a small corner of the country or an insignificant fraction of its population. Last week, for instance, we were told of the keenness of Indian interest in the future of Aden; the question is by no means unimportant, but Indians in the mass probably care just as much about Kamchatka. The Punjab, again, is at the moment pestered with turbulent Sikhs, while Bengal is afflicted with organised murder-gangs, but neither province cares much about the other's troubles, and to speak of them as Indian is an insult to the country, an insult which is doing quite a lot of harm over here. Is it too much to ask that the purveyors of information should take a little more trouble to distinguish local affairs from those of general interest, and reserve the word "Indian" for what concerns India as a whole?

Ignoring the Peasant.

A letter in *The Times* from Sardar Jogendra Singh, a highly respected member of the Indian legislature, suggests that even the Central Government has fallen a victim to this habit of mistaking a very small part for a very extensive whole. The Sardar complains that the Administration takes no notice of anyone but the townsman or the lawyer, and ignores the truly Indian problem of national poverty. His specific demand for a large policy of agricultural and industrial development can indeed be countered by pointing to the fact that these subjects are in charge of provincial Ministers, who would certainly resent any interference in their functions on the part of the Central Government; but in regard to the general question he is on firmer ground. In the matter of the tariff, for instance, it has been officially admitted that the interests of the peasants are being practically ignored, the debates on rural questions in the legislature have been singularly jejune, and people of many shades of opinion will be disposed to agree that there is still far too much unreality at Delhi, where, on the now accepted theory of democracy, the peasant is entitled to hold the stage.

The Peasants' Remedy.

The curious thing is that the peasants have a remedy lying ready to their hand. Even under the present franchise they could, if they chose, return a majority in nearly every provincial legislature, while in the Central Assembly they could furnish, if not an absolute majority, at any rate an agricultural block sufficiently numerous to be effective in practice. The Sardar's appeal to the Central Government to give a lead fails to take account of this fact. Under the new Constitution it is open to him, and the men who think with him, to organise the peasant vote on a programme such as he desires, and when this has been accomplished his just aspirations will be brought within his reach. Three years have been practically wasted, and it is now probable that the next legislature will be as urban in character as the last, but it has only a short life before it, and if the time is profitably employed in the necessary spade work there ought to be a strong agricultural block in 1926. As we have said before, lawyers and townsmen will learn to be servants quickly enough: the difficult thing is to teach the peasant that he is now master of his fate.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Waiting for Light.

We hoped, and we hoped in vain, that our Prime Minister would last week illumine the dark official utterances about the re-establishment of the *entente cordiale*. Time was when advantage would have been taken of such an occasion as Mr. Baldwin had a day or two ago of speech-making in the Midlands to explain the present political situation—one cannot, for instance, imagine Mr. Lloyd George missing the opportunity, and even Mr. Bonar Law would have at least guardedly examined the position—but from Mr. Baldwin, beyond the statement that friendship with France must determine our future foreign policy, never a word.

Instead, an admirable enough speech on the virtues of democracy, on the effects of education, on the obvious fundamentals of modern society; in short, a good speech for a local occasion, yet certainly one not worth the reporting. One does not grumble at him, as is becoming the fashion; but one does painfully realise how complete is the darkness around us. How has he squared M. Poincaré? Are we, too, to get any reparations? Have we guaranteed French security? Such are the questions to which we still would very much like an answer. Yet not even a word is vouchsafed to us. The Press is getting impatient, and its readers are growing restless. One does admire immensely the cool serenity of Mr. Baldwin, but

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the Olympian attitude is really an impossible one in modern democracies.

The Government's Position.

There seldom has been, whatever good Conservatives may say, a better example of the "wait-and-see" attitude than our present Administration, and if it wishes to be judged on its actions alone its chances of retaining popularity are remote. People are beginning to suspect that it is rather waiting on events than attempting to shape them; even admirers of Signor Mussolini are aware of the real cause which prompts our own Government to see eye to eye with him. As for the lovers of the League of Nations, they are for the most part disgusted with our Government's share in the Græco-Italian dispute; such kow-towing (they say) by Britain and France merely to keep Italy quiet is disgraceful. It would seem, then, that the Government must really assert itself.

The position is difficult, Heaven knows. We cannot "afford" to fall out either with France or with Italy; but surely there are limits to our indulgence in *real-politik*. If we now agree that the policy of France is the only possible one, then let us, in the name of sincerity, say so, and for ever (at least, until we have received reparations) keep quiet. But if we think that the occupation of the Ruhr is a blot on civilisation, that the bombardment of Corfu was utterly and eternally indefensible, then again let us say so. There is a suspicion growing up that we are saying and thinking one thing and doing another, and although personally one may applaud the actual wisdom of the Government's deeds, one cannot imagine that the exercise of enforced diplomacy at the expense of instinctive justice will carry Great Britain far. We must—and we are all sufficient democrats to admit and one day to assert this—get back to principles.

Meanwhile the worship of the moment goes on apace. One looks for some wider, fresher view of affairs from the Colonial representatives at the Imperial Conference, which begins this week.

Mr. Lloyd George's Book.

I cannot, when the Press has given such space to Mr. Lloyd George's book, "Is It Peace?" wholly ignore it. But, as everyone says of the reports of murder and divorce cases, I have not read it. At the utmost, I plead guilty to having read but a few of the articles retained in it, and that only because at the time the *Daily Telegraph* and *Daily Chronicle* appeared to contain nothing else. For the truth is that our ex-Premier's words are but flap-doodle, or, better still, "gup"; they are the windy rhetoric that floats grandly down the walls of public buildings but dissolves into extraordinarily obvious nothings when set in print.

But he is now on his way to the land of Prohibition, and perhaps one should not be hard on a man in misfortune. In all probability it will not affect the sale of the book that Mr. Baldwin should have lectured us so solemnly on the emptiness and untrustworthiness of rhetoric. As a matter of fact, we do like rhetoric, and always shall be moved by it; all that we insist on is that its possessor shall be solid and stable. The romantic pose we appreciate, but more important still is the classical poise; it is not because he completely lacks the first that Mr. Baldwin is still popular, but, rather, because he possesses the second.

A Spiritualistic Review.

Reviewers of books are strange beings, generally dull, sometimes drunk, and nine times out of ten they are not readers of books. But never until last week did I hear of this unexciting work being undertaken by the dead. Mr. Laurence Housman, it seems, has written a book called "Echo de Paris," which is chiefly concerned with his recollections of the life of Oscar Wilde in France. Now, recently some spiritualist people have been receiving from Oscar Wilde (and giving to the world with great gusto) his opinions on modern literary men, and Mr. Housman thought it rather a good idea to get through these people Wilde's own opinion of his book. At a séance in Chelsea last week the matter was therefore fixed up. One does not read how the psychic experts present regarded the stuff that the medium slung with incredible speed on to paper, but the literary men do not appear to have been impressed.

The experiment, however, opens an entrancing vista. One can foresee the next biography of Walpole, say, containing a foreword by himself, or a domestic volume on "The Joys of the Household" with a special appreciation by Queen Anne!

England and Rome.

At the proceedings of the Church Congress all sorts of subjects have been discussed, often quite important and relevant—the indifference of people to the Anglican Church, its real attitude towards sex (the tenuity of the hold which the Church has upon this question was unguessed by the majority of speakers), the ordering of Church services, and so on. But in the nature of things no definite conclusion could be reached over such matters, and what one is chiefly looking for as a result of all this discussion is some light on the position of the Church of England in regard to Rome.

The Anglo-Catholic Party, one says, is not making much ground from the point of view of numbers, but Anglicans generally are aware of the Catholic revival on the Continent, and there is a genuine desire (which has reached even to the ears of *The Times*) to attain unity between the Anglican Church and the Church of Rome. That there will be a fight is certain; the Evangelicals are already girding their armour on for it, and it is difficult to see the outcome. A new religion of Science, based on fact (now being zealously promulgated), will never satisfy mankind; it is easier to suppose that we shall return to that form of Christianity which we kept until the Reformation. But there are those who consider that the principles enunciated at the Reformation are, for this country, at any rate, eternally true, and these are looking rather to the

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union of all Churches outside Rome than union with the Church of the West itself.

The Love of Animals.

By nothing more, perhaps, are we distinguished from our predecessors of, say, a century ago than by our love for animals. Some, indeed, believe that our consideration for animals has progressed too far, but, in any case, it is one mark of the age. With the man who does not love horses and dogs we say there is something wrong; it was, for example, a shock to our soldiers serving abroad to find how the Continentals regarded their animals.

It was, therefore, as if we had been plunged at least into the eighteenth century when we read that the other day a man at Dunmow, Essex, was imprisoned for blinding a chaffinch. He had inserted a red-hot needle into both eyes, it seems, in the expectation that the bird would sing better! Incredible it sounds; and two months, we at once say, is a light punishment for such a bestial offence. Yet, when the history of the humanitarian movement is considered, this acquisition of finer feelings is really very recent.

Editors and Artists.

A very nice point was raised in the Courts last week by Mr. Stephen M'Kenna. This novelist had sold the serial rights of his novel (published a day or so after this legal affair) to the *Referee*. Under one Editor the tale tripped every Sunday along its merry and undiminished course, but before the serial had finished a new Editor had arrived, whose views on the moral responsibility to his readers coincided neither with the late Editor's nor with Mr. M'Kenna's. Hence an action by the novelist for mutilation of his work of art.

It was decided that everybody had behaved perfectly, and for this particular case that perhaps was the happiest of solutions. But still the problem of the Editor (who is never an artist) and the artist remains unsolved. In this country probably it is a safe guess to say that the plea of morality will never fall on officially deaf ears, however disappointed the readers of papers may be.

Alter Ego.

THE PERSIAN RELIEF FUND.

The Persian Minister in London begs to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the following subscriptions received to date at the Legation on behalf of the Relief Fund opened in aid of the victims of the recent earthquake disaster in Persia:—

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H.H. The Maharaja of Kapurthala	25	0	0
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Received through the Persian Consul in Manchester:—M. Bakirgian, Esq., £50; Hadji Ali Akbar and Sons, Ltd. (staff), £26 3s.; Joseph Sykes, Esq., £20; H. Briggs, Esq., £10 10s.; Holden Wood Bleaching Co., £10 10s.; William Delany and Co., £10 10s.; Birchenhall, Wood and Wood, £10 10s.; Frank C. Strick and Co., Ltd., £10 10s. Edgar Bros., £10; Isaacs Bros., Sons and Co. £10; Messrs. Sivrisarian, £10; Briggs Bros. and Co. (Cleckheaton), £5 5s.; Hoyle and Lord, £5 5s.; Tattersall and Helm, £5 5s.; Baxter, Hoare and Co., Ltd., £5 5s.; John Welch and Sons, £5 5s.; F. Bosworth, Esq., £5; M. Behruz, Esq., £5; F. Simons, Esq., £5; Lever Bros., Ltd., £5; Moise J. Sassoon, Esq., £1 1s.; Bahr, Behrend and Co., £1 1s.; D. T. Johnson, Esq., £1 1s.; Guedalla and Butcher, Ltd., £1 1s.; A. Bushell and Co., Ltd., £1 1s.; Benison D. Levi, Esq., £1 1s.; St. Agnes' Girls' Club, 10s. 6d.; Miss G. D. Jones, 1s. 4d.; Persian Consul at Hull, £5 5s.

Received through the Persian Consul at Hull, subscribers wishing to remain anonymous, £92 18s.; Captain R. M. Mitchell, formerly Acting Persian Consul in London, £10; Persian Consul in Malta, £5 5s.; Persian Consul in Dublin, £2 2s.; Mr. Hakim (per Persian Consul-General in London), £1 1s.; Messrs. M. Gazvini and Co., £10 10s.

Total amount received to date, £598 16s. 10d.

HASSAN.

In poems and in tales alone shall live the eternal memory of this city, when I am dust and thou art dust, when the Bedouin shall build his hut upon my garden and drive his plough beyond the ruins of my palace, and all Bagdad is broken to the ground. Ah, if there shall ever arise a nation whose people have forgotten poetry or whose poets have forgotten the people, though they send their ships round Taprobane and their armies across the hills of Hindustan, though their city be greater than Babylon of old, though they mine a league into earth or mount to the stars on wings—what of them?

It is not necessary to re-tell to readers of The Near East the story of Flecker's "Hassan"; with its loveliness they are presumably familiar. Nor is it of the artistic merits and demerits of the production of the play, now at His Majesty's Theatre, that one ought here to write.

For to students of the East "Hassan" has a very special message, to be found, I think, in the lines that I have put at the head of this column—spoken by the Caliph to Hassan. To those who question its accuracy, the play will make little appeal, but in spite of them it is a poetic truth and an eternal one. The charm of Islam Flecker has sufficiently brought to us in his contrast of comedy and tragedy, of kindliness and cruelty, of love and of lust, but he is exquisitely right in insisting that only in poetry can the true understanding of it be found. Most Mohammedans (I do not intend to touch on politics) are children, and therefore poets; therein lies the secret at least of their perpetual fascination. All the world must love Hassan, the confectioner of Baghdad.

To read "Hassan" is so great an imaginative experience that to see it played must almost inevitably cause disappointment. At times, it is true, its beauty at His Majesty's was even heightened, as in the scene of the Street of Felicity where Hassan falls stunned by the failure of earthly passion, or in the scene where the pilgrims start on the Golden Journey to Samarkand. But the ballets, done as they were, were an unforgivable intrusion: why Fokine should have conceived that Baghdadi dance as do Tatars from the steppes passes comprehension—it involved the impossible task of making Delius Borodine. Yet whatever one's personal disagreements, the fact remains that this great play is at last being performed; however one thinks of the whole, there are, at any rate, points of splendour which have never been equalled on our stage—the *ghazal*, for instance, which Hassan declaims over a magnificent undersurge of Delius, or his memorable cadence: "This rose has faded, and this rose is bitter, and this rose is nothing but the world," or Ishak's song that moved the agony-loving heart of Haroun: "Thy dawn, O Master of the world, thy dawn." It is a play to which one surely will be drawn again and again.

Alter Ego.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

The session which begins a second century of meetings of the Royal Asiatic Society opens next Tuesday (October 9) with a paper by Dr. H. R. Hall, of the British Museum, illustrated by lantern slides, on "Recent Excavations in Babylonia and their Bearing on History." On November 13, Mr. W. Foster, the Registrar of the India Office, will lecture on the pictures in the possession of the society, some of which are of historic interest. On December 11 Lieutenant-Colonel John Shakespear will give a lantern lecture on "Manipur, Past and Present."

The first of a series of lectures at London University under the auspices of the League of Nations will be given by Principal Ernest Barker at King's College this afternoon at half-past five o'clock on "The Greek and Roman Tradition."

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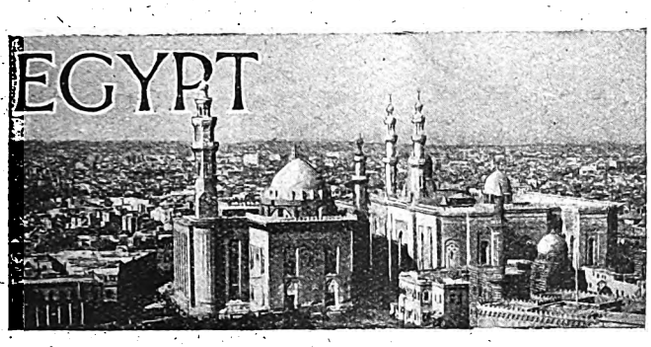
The Near and Middle East.*



Cairo, September 23.

Zaghloul Pasha's Return.

A week full of incident and stir has passed off uncommonly well. Everyone concerned in the homecoming of Saad Pasha Zaghloul deserves much congratulation—the Pasha himself, on receiving a really wonderful welcome; the police, on the tact and skill, to say nothing of physical endurance, they displayed in handling very large crowds through the long hours of two very hot days; the Wafd organisations, on the invaluable help which they gave to the police; and the general public, whose behaviour was excellent.

When Zaghloul Pasha returned to Alexandria two years ago I witnessed the rejoicings from a balcony in the Mohammed Aly Square. Arriving in Alexandria last Monday morning, I made straight for the same balcony, anxious to view the scene from the same vantage point, and so be able to make a comparison between the numbers and conduct of the crowd on the two occasions. The impression gained was that there were certainly fewer people and less enthusiasm in that particular part of the town this time than when Zaghloul Pasha returned previously. All the reports from spectators at other points along the route confirmed that the welcome given the Pasha was everywhere less impressive than two years ago. This, however, does not mean to say that Zaghloul Pasha did not have a reception which far surpassed in its demonstration of popular affection anything that has ever been accorded to any other Egyptian. He certainly did: it is safe to say that the only man who has ever been more joyously welcomed than was he on Monday was himself in 1921.

While Alexandria seemed to have lost its one-time abandon, Cairo, so far as I could judge, was just as enthusiastic over Zaghloul Pasha as it ever was. Indeed, when allowances have been made for the fact that police precautions kept many people from the route of the procession, last Tuesday's demonstration of popular affection might well be considered the most remarkable that Cairo has ever known. Various people have told me that they noticed a great difference in the composition of the crowds this year, as compared with 1921. This year, they say, there was a marked absence of the middle and upper classes. It may have been so, but from what I saw of the crowds I would say that there was very little difference in this respect. Lawyers and doctors have never been much given to street demonstrations, yet there is little doubt that the great majority—probably 90 per cent.—of Egyptian professional men share the political opinions of Saad Pasha Zaghloul. It is, indeed, the professional classes which constitute the backbone of the Zaghloulist Party, just as the big property owners are the most important factor in the Liberal Constitutionals.

The Wafd's Policy.

Zaghloul Pasha is back, as full of fire and energy as ever, and still the leader of the great majority of the nation. There is no getting round those facts. He is also going to play the same old destructive game as before; that, too, he has made quite clear. Beginning with several speeches, which were models of discretion and avoidance of contentious subjects, the Wafd leader on Thursday delivered two addresses, both of which had the old, authentic ring. He is as irreconcilable as ever. Everything that has happened since his second exile must be cancelled: the first act of the overwhelmingly Zaghloulist Parliament which the leader and his followers expect is to be the cancellation of all laws recently passed, such as the Foreign Officials' Compensation Law, the Indemnity Act, and the various laws affecting public security, while the Constitution must either be thrown overboard and a new charter framed by Parliament itself, or else there must be drastic cuts and changes. Then, the air having been cleared by the dissipation of the afore-mentioned sundry clouds, the Zaghloulists will be ready to get around a table with the British representatives to talk things over.

The realisation of this Zaghloulist new heaven and new earth will not, it is permissible to think, be quite so simple an affair as the Wafd seem to suppose. It is conceivable that the British Government will not share the Zaghloulist view regarding the destructibility of agreements. But it is not possible to foresee now what will happen when that Parliament, regarding which there are such great expectations, gets to work. The tenure of power may have a wonderfully steadying effect upon Saad Pasha and his lieutenants. And, even more in Egypt than in most countries, there is nothing like a spell in office to make a party unpopular. All these things, however, belong to the future, and much may happen before Parliament starts on the root and branch work which Zaghloul Pasha has described. It is the immediate future, the possibility of unbalanced and inexperienced minds being affected by fiery speeches, which is the consideration of the moment. Last winter, for the first time since 1913-14, Egypt had a good tourist season; it is to be hoped that potential visitors this year will not be made to think that Egypt at elections time is not, perhaps, a very good place for holiday-making.

A Notable Appointment.

The satisfaction shown in Egyptian circles at the appointment of Mr. R. S. Patterson as Financial Adviser has been renewed by the decision to engage Mr. H. M. Lefroy as Director of the Entomological Section in the Ministry of Agriculture, and, at the same time, Director of the Higher School of

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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Agriculture. Mr. Lefroy is probably the greatest entomological expert in the English-speaking world. He has had long experience in the West Indies, India, and Mesopotamia, as well as professorial work at the Imperial College of Science, South Kensington. He is at the present moment in India, which country he is leaving, I understand, chiefly for health reasons. Egyptian officials of the Ministry of Agriculture who are acquainted with the reputation which Mr. Lefroy enjoys, are delighted that their country is to have the services of so famous an expert. He has been engaged on a five-years' contract, with a salary of about £E1,500 per annum.

Tutankhamen Again.

Reports of Mr. Howard Carter's lectures in London, in which he stated that he expects to resume work on the Tutankhamen tomb at the beginning of November, have reawakened local interest in the Valley of the Kings. Our journalists, especially, are wondering whether there will be this winter a repetition of the fierce rivalries of last season. Nobody here seems to know what has been arranged between Mr. Carter and the Egyptian Government, whether *The Times* will run its special service from Luxor on the same scale as last year, or if the other London newspapers intend to compete, as they did last winter. If Tutankhamen claims anything like the attention given him last year, and the elections also produce much copy, Egypt will figure prominently in the Home Press during the next few months.

The Cricket Season.

Cricket in Egypt enjoys a longer season than does the game in England, but we are now coming to the last of the important fixtures. The season has not been brilliant. May and June were productive of the best cricket, for, from July onwards, many of the leading players have been away on leave. Perhaps for that reason there has been a marked decline in the standard of play compared with former years, the falling away being particularly noticeable in the fielding. The main reason for the lower level has been, however, the comparatively poor quality of the military teams. The Dorset Regiment and the Royal Corps of Signals have been the best of the Army units. The former defeated the latter in the Command Cup competition, but had the tables turned on them by the Signals in the semi-finals of the Frank Cook Cup, which trophy the Signals seem likely to secure.

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Jerusalem, September 17.

Work on Mount Ophel.

Professor R. A. S. Macalister arrived here a week ago to direct the much-advertised excavations on Mount Ophel, the "City of David." He has so far not been able to do more than choose the exact site of future work, and now he is confronted with the task of appeasing the owners of the site who, as is the way with them, will demand untold wealth as compensation for the loss of their few square yards of crop. Fortunately, the new Palestine Antiquities Ordinance makes full provision for meeting such claims, and there is not much likelihood of serious delay. Of course, the attempt has been made to set on foot the old scare that the excavators will try to tunnel through to the Haram enclosure. Local archæologists do not expect anything thrilling or spectacular as a result of the digging: it will more probably restrict itself to the study of strata and pottery, than which nothing could be duller to the uninitiated onlooker, but which is capable, in the hands of a sufficiently imaginative archæologist, to unclose pages of history, and, if the evidence is meagre enough, support his most cherished theories.

The Tomb of Sapphira.

News of the most recent Jerusalem archæological discovery does not yet appear to have been made widely known. This was nothing less than the unearthing of the tomb of Sapphira, the unhappy lady referred to in the Acts of the Apostles. In the course of digging foundations near the Bezaleel quarter—the hill west of the city—an old Jewish tomb was found, and in it was a plain ossuary with the name "Sapphira" engraved in Hebrew and Greek, and containing the full complement of bones. Site and period pointed to the middle of the first century, and the simplicity of the tomb was in keeping with the middle-class social quality of Ananias and Sapphira and their circle. The gifted young Jewish archæologist who was in charge of the investigation ventured still further in support of the identification, and called in expert medical advice on the nature of the bones, and Sapphira's reputation was further enhanced by the discovery that she lied in her very bones—they were masculine!

Brigandage at Hebron.

The Hebron district and the main road from Hebron to Jerusalem have, during the past week, suffered from several cases of brigandage and murder. The worst case was last Monday, when a Government tax-collector and his armed escort were attacked and robbed of two hundred pounds. The former was murdered and the guard seriously wounded. The following days other parties, travelling by car to Jerusalem, were held up and robbed and several passengers wounded. The police have at last been thoroughly roused. The plague spot

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has been identified as the village of Dura, where, little more than a year ago a serious outbreak occurred, resulting in many deaths and injuries, a mild police punitive expedition, and a heavy confiscation of firearms. A large number of arrests were made in the latter half of last week, and all the inhabitants of the suspected area have been ordered to confine themselves within the village of Dura and the immediate neighbourhood, in order to be under close police supervision. Some thirty Dura sheikhs have been sent to Acca Gaol.

Arab Discontent.

The political efforts of the Arab malcontents have been restricted during the past month to the newspaper columns. The only event of importance has been the resignation of a further Arab nominee of the Advisory Council, Raheb Bey Nashashibi, the Mayor of Jerusalem. This leaves but three out of the original ten nominees. The remaining three, *El-Falastin* wickedly avers, only refrain from resigning, the one because of the social position, the other because of the pay, and the third because he hopes for a knighthood.

The following extract from the last issue of *Mirât esh-Sharq* may be reproduced without comment:—

Every Arab should pray the following prayer ten times a day: "We recognise not the Balfour Declaration" (seven times); "we would that the Balfour Declaration be abolished" (seven times); "we will have no part with Zionism" (eight times); "we would have complete independence" (seven times); "we hate the English" (seven times); "we hate the Palestine Government" (seven times); "we seek complete independence without any mandate whatsoever" (seven times); "down with Zionism." Let every Arab pray this prayer, and there will then be no manner of doubt that if he sells his possessions to the Zionists, if he plays the agent for them, if he accepts monthly wages from them, if he be of them that treat the Nationalist question as a means of furthering his own family, if he plays the spy for the Government or for the Zionists, if he be of them that wheedle piastres out of the poor under the pretence of Nationalism and consumes half of the money himself, if he be of them that hire out their fine houses to the Zionists and himself dwell in the hovel—then, after he have prayed this prayer, he will be absolved of all the besmearings of Zionism and treasonable treachery and become a devoted and faithful Nationalist.

Transjordanian Affairs.

The details are far from clear and the causes are confused, but the Government of Transjordania seems to be hard set at the moment by anti-Government conspiracies. Several arrests of present and past higher Government officials have been made; some have been deported to Jedda, others await trial in Amman by a special court, and some have succeeded in escaping. The scale of things in Transjordania is too small for the causes of dissatisfaction to be much more than personal manœuvrings for position and influence; the ultimate reasons may most probably have their root in the withdawal of most of the heavy financial subsidy from Great Britain and the inner movement for confining the higher posts to native-born Transjordanians as opposed to exiles from French Syria. The same withdrawal of the British subsidy is responsible for a series of drastic economies in the Emir Abdullah's administration; those so far announced include the abolition of the Department of Public Health, the shutting up of the Government Hospital, the abolition of the Department of Agriculture, the post of Government Veterinary Surgeon, and a wholesale reduction of salaries: the Prime Minister to get £45 a month, his assistant £35, and District Governors £25.

A Blow to the Tourist.

It is regrettable to have to announce that the "Society for the Promotion of Travel in the Holy Land" has been forced to bring its existence to an end, and a general meeting is announced for October 23 to wind up its affairs. The Society was formed little more than a year ago by Colonel Solomon, then Director of the "Department of Commerce and Industry" (since "axed"), in order to foster what is, when all is said and done, the chief and most profitable Palestinian industry—catering for and encouraging the tourist. For a time the Society promised well, issued a pamphlet proclaiming the virtues of Palestine, and organising a competition for the best advertising poster. But those who should have been the interested parties in Palestine (shopkeepers, hotel-managers, tourist agencies and the like) failed to support the Society to any appreciable extent, and with the departure of its President, Colonel Solomon, and the suppression of the Department most directly concerned, the life of the Society fizzled out—which is an obvious pity and a loss to the country.

The Pro-Jerusalem Society.

On the other hand, the Pro-Jerusalem Society, the weapon created by Mr. Storrs, the Governor of Jerusalem, for the protection of Jerusalem from the evils of vandalism, has just given convincing proof of life and abundantly justified its existence. Every visitor to Jerusalem will remember the glaring white, new clock-tower, which disfigured the Jaffa Gate. It had been set up there not many years ago by public subscription to the honour of Abdul Hamid. The Pro-Jerusalem Society long ago determined to have it removed, and this it has now accomplished. It is interesting to note that the leaders of the Palestinian Arab Nationalists bitterly protested when they saw it disappearing: it was urged that a bitter wrong was being done to the Arabs by depriving them of a memorial of the past happy days of Turkish rule.

IRAK.

Baghdad, September 20.

Treatment of Cholera.

The country is still by no means free of the cholera epidemic, and cases have now been reported from almost all towns of any size from Samarra southwards. The number of new cases reported each day is, however, much smaller than it was a week or two ago. The severe restrictions on travel no doubt had some effect in reducing the number of cases and preventing the spread of the disease, and there is every reason to hope that the epidemic is now well under control and that some relaxations will soon be made in these restrictions. The stop-

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ping of all third-class passenger traffic between Basrah and Baghdad, whether by river or rail, is not only a severe handicap to trade, but is also a heavy blow to the railways and the steamer companies.

Irak and Nejd.

The excitement of the past few days has been the arrival of small parties of the Ikhwan near the Irak frontier, and there has been much speculation whether their arrival presaged a hostile movement by Ibn Saoud against this country. There are many here who feel that now that his subsidy from the British Government has been stopped there is nothing to hold Ibn Saoud back from attacking such of his neighbours as are ruled by relations of his hated enemy the King of the Hejaz, and the fertile lands of Irak are regarded as affording a likely object on which he will focus his attentions. It is difficult to believe, however, that he will attack any country which contains a garrison of British or French land and air force. At any rate, the small parties now near the Irak frontier have shown no signs of activity against Irak or Irak subjects, and any fears entertained regarding their intentions probably lack justification.

Forced Labour.

The damage done by the bursting of the river bunds this year during the floods, and the necessity of turning out whole tribes and villages to work on embankments and other flood protection works has made it necessary to promulgate regulations regarding the turning out of forced labour on such occasions. The new regulations state that the Ministry of Interior may in sudden and unexpected circumstances grant to senior Administrative officials authority to collect labour and pay it at rates of pay to be fixed by the Government in order to stop floods, extension of fire, or the spread of locusts. If the occasion is such that it cannot wait the delay entailed in corresponding with the Ministry senior Administrative officials may exercise their authority and advise the Ministry as soon as possible. Severe penalties are authorised for infliction on labourers who contravene the orders of the Administrative officials in this connection, and on sheikhs and mukhtars who refuse to supply the number of labourers required of them or who do not render the necessary assistance.

The Weather.

The weather of late has been disappointingly hot and uncomfortable, though none the less seasonable. When at the end of August the maximum temperatures fell below 100 degrees, and the nights became really cold, hopes were entertained that the summer was over. Since then, however, the temperatures have gone back to 110 degrees, and the damp south wind has made things very uncomfortable.

Crops and Prices.

The wheat and barley crop this year is on the whole good, but prices are very low and hardly repay the cost of cultivation. A continuance of such low prices will probably do much to stimulate the cultivation of cotton and other more remunerative crops.

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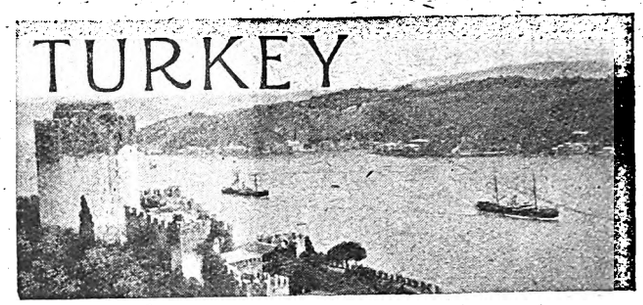

Constantinople, September 25.

The Government.

Many wise men in the East have consistently prophesied the speedy breakdown of any system of Turkish government which was not based upon a theocratic absolutism such as that wielded by the late Sultan Abdul Hamid. They have pointed out that the ineffectiveness of any Turkish statesman or leader who has not been supported by the semi-religious power of an absolute Sultan is only paralleled by the utter uselessness of most of the Russian statesmen who have tried to govern Russia in the name of a principle instead of in the name of the "Little Father." The aforesaid wise men have naturally been assailed by the Turkish democrat and his friends—not without some show of justice—for mistaking the wish for the thought and "falling before he was pushed."

Nevertheless, a perusal of the news concerning the Council of Commissaries, as the new Turkish State is pleased to call its Cabinet, does lend some colour to the opinion that a game of musical chairs and not much serious business is going on. The present Government and Assembly is about six weeks old, and since its installation Hassan Fehmi Bey, Minister of Finance, has been expected to resign; Mahmoud Essad Bey, Minister for National Economy, has misgivings about his health, and is expected to be replaced by Hassan Bey to-day; Safa Bey, Minister of Public Instruction, is annoyed about something, and rumours are insistent that he will be succeeded by Shukri Bey. The Minister for Religion, Nusa Mazim Effendi, has resigned on theological grounds.

Seid Bey, Minister of Justice, wishes to resume his professional avocations at the University, and the Press believes that Youssouf Kemal Bey will succeed him; and, finally, Fethi Bey is credited with the desire of devoting himself to the question of the exchange of populations, and handing over his task as Minister of the Interior to Abdul Halik Mustapha Bey.

Without guaranteeing the absolute veracity of all these reports, I quote them as illustrating the instability of men's minds on the subject of their national Government. Something is wrong in the state of democratic Turkey. In any normal democratic European State such a condition of affairs in the Government would give rise to disquieting rumours as to the security of the Government's tenure of office, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the present Government's future is not so secure as its Parliamentary preponderance would lead us to think.

One is not particularly enamoured of the present Government, chiefly because it owes its existence to an uncritical state of mind consequent upon a military and diplomatic victory which would probably have unhinged a better-balanced people, and because it cannot in any sense be said to represent anybody but the members of the Government; but one would be sorry to see them the

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victims of a violent upheaval, principally because it is difficult to see who would do better.

Possibilities of Upheaval.

There are many reasons for thinking that an internal upheaval is by no means a remote contingency. The exacerbated tone of disapproval, and the caustic criticism of any sin of commission or omission of the Government's—and, apparently, their sins are legion—are a notable feature in the Constantinople Press, with the sole exception of the *Ileri*, which is waging an uphill battle on behalf of the Government. Such criticism would sound mild in an Opposition paper at home, and one would regard it as a healthy sign of interest in the conduct of the nation's affairs; but here such a community of ideas is regarded as proof positive of guilty collusion with the object of preparing the path for hostile action—and hostile action here does not merely mean a legitimate use of the ballot-box. I am far from suggesting a belief in a cunning, widespread plot against the Government, but the fact remains that the mere publication of such damaging criticism is sufficient evidence for a Turk that a plot exists; and what else can one expect when criticism has been synonymous with high treason until a few weeks ago?

Causes of Discontent.

The main causes of discontent are the inactivity of the Government in dealing with the brigandage evil, the pitiable condition of ex-officers and discharged civil officials, the Government's policy in sanctioning the establishment of educational institutions in Angora and elsewhere, while the existing facilities in Constantinople are starved by want of funds and hampered by maladministration. Sarcastic reference is made to the Finance Minister's budget statement, which talks of a surplus of fifteen million liras.

The End of the Occupation.

The long-desired consummation towards which the Turks have been looking for years has almost been realised. The Allied troops of occupation are reduced to very small numbers, and all preparations have been made for the final ceremony of adieu to the Allied Generals at 3 p.m. on October 2. After that date the only sanctions which can be applied to infringements of the Treaty of Lausanne are moral reprobation and financial starvation. That the local non-Moslem population does not believe in the efficacy of these sanctions is clear from the fact that a fresh exodus has been going on for some weeks, until measures were put in force by Angora to prevent the departure of Ottoman Greeks and Armenians from Constantinople. The recent exodus has been composed chiefly of young Christians, who are bent upon escaping from the obligation of military service with which they are now threatened. Their desire to escape this obligation is comprehensible when it is realised that service in a Turkish labour corps in the Anatolian winter is almost equivalent to a sentence of death upon the young town-bred clerks and business men of Constantinople, who are in every way unfitted to bear hard manual labour under such conditions.

Exchange of Populations.

The threatened exchange of populations in the area around Constantinople has caused the same unfortunate results as have been noticed in Karagatch and other places evacuated. The argument of the *expulsés* is that, if they cannot take away their houses and property as a whole, they will remove as much of it as they possibly can, although they may leave the relics in a condition unfit for human habitation. A case of such wanton destruction has already occurred near Makrikeuy, and unless efficacious measures are taken the same thing will happen elsewhere. The fate of the exchanged people on both sides of the frontier is not an enviable one, and the fact that the exchange will operate hardly upon the Moslem immigrants is strongly commented upon by a paper in the Konia Vilayet, where it is the intention of the Government to settle some of them. The newspaper points out that since 1893 some 140,000 immigrants have been settled in the Konia region, and of these only about 20,000 remain. The remainder have either succumbed to the inclemency of the climate or to the prevailing scourge, fever, or have emigrated to more temperate regions. Such will be the fate of new batches of immigrants.

Meanwhile a vigorous programme of propaganda is being carried out by the Turkish associations for Thrace and Macedonia against the Greek "atrocities" on the exchangeable Moslems in these provinces, and threatening strong action by the Turkish Government by way of reprisals.

Anatolian Agriculture.

The most important recent debate in the Assembly was on the subject of the credits voted in aid of agriculture in Anatolia. The Minister of Finance agreed to the doubling of the original subsidy of half a million pounds Turkish, and after a long discussion, during which various extravagant proposals were made, it was decided that 1,100,000 pounds Turkish should be allocated to the relief of agriculture. Of this sum, 900,000 pounds is to be devoted to the purchase and distribution of seed grain and agricultural machinery on easy terms arranged through the Banque Agricole. The remaining 200,000 pounds will be expended on free distribution of seed grain and implements to necessitous peasants.

THE IMPERIAL WAR RELIEF FUND.

The report now issued by the committee of this Fund covers its history for three years ending on August 31. It is a record of humane work organised and carried out in the face of appalling difficulties, and of the generosity that has made it possible to save thousands of lives. The accounts for the year 1922 deal with the receipt and expenditure of £472,218, of which the greater part is money given by British subjects, although the value of gifts in kind is estimated at £224,776. In the three years just ended the cash and goods received reached a total value of more than three-quarters of a million. Until the prospects of this year's harvest seemed in some degree assured the Russian Famine Relief Fund absorbed the bulk of these gifts, the money of private donors and the goods of the British and Australian Governments.

Now the main sphere of work lies in Greek territory. During the past year more than a million destitute Greeks and Armenians have poured into the country by shiploads from Smyrna, Anatolia, and the coasts of Asia Minor, or by road from Constantinople and Eastern Thrace. Greece can neither feed nor shelter them entirely out of her own resources. Time must pass before this increase by nearly 25 per cent. in her population can be an economic asset even to a thinly populated country like Greece. The first tasks of the Imperial War Relief Fund and the Societies associated with it in the All-British Appeal have been to keep these people alive with food, shelter, and clothing, and to combat the epidemics, of which they brought the seeds plentifully with them. Secondly, agricultural and industrial settlements are instituted on vacant land, mainly in Western Thrace, where in conjunction with the League of Nations the beginnings of self-supporting communities have been made. Until July last the United States shared on a generous scale the cost of saving these lives. That help has now come to an end. The prospects of an international loan to Greece for the settlement of the refugees are hopeful but remote. Through the coming winter it is from the British Empire that relief must come, and the Committee of the Imperial War Relief Fund can point to their report as testimony to what has been done and to the urgent need for further funds. Lord Robert Cecil, Sir Hubert Gough, and Sir Maurice Bonham Carter, the president, chairman, and treasurer respectively, appeal to the Empire for help to be sent to them at the Fund's office in General Buildings, Aldwych, London.

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THE LATE COL. AUBREY HERBERT.

It is with profound regret that we have to record the death of Colonel the Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., which occurred in London on September 26. The funeral took place at Brushford, Dulverton, on Friday, a memorial service being held at the same time in St. James's Church, Piccadilly.

AUBREY HERBERT; AN APPRECIATION.

It is September 26. The trees in Hyde Park are thinning to the winter. Here and there a yellow leaf floats lazily down to earth. There is a spell of rare warm weather such as the Turks call "the old man's summer." Children are playing in the park and the wild birds are calling across the lakes; and down in the streets the paper-boys are crying that Aubrey Herbert is dead. The mind refuses to grasp the fact. It will not realise that he is gone and his place is empty—that there is no Aubrey Herbert. It cannot conceive that this vivid personality is no more, that this centre to which so many interests were attracted has ceased to exist.

The man was a great soul imprisoned in a poor body, but the soul looked out continuously between the bars and saw only the sunshine, heard only the laughter, and felt only the vigour of life and the restlessness of energy. From his childhood he was sick and weakly. He had suffered from many diseases and wounds. He was nearly blind. One eye was gone and only faint glimmers of light came to the other. Yet through it all he knew only the good in life and the humour. He was physically and morally quite fearless. He had a generosity of character that disarmed his enemies and bound his friends closer to him. He defended his friends against all comers. He refused to discuss his enemies. He hated so little and so badly. He loved so dearly and so well. He urged his way through his physical disabilities and impressed his personality for good on many people, ideas, and even nations.

His personal qualities were great. His value to the Empire was far greater. The British know little of the East, and care less. There has been little sympathy, and during the last four years there has grown up much active dislike. For a century we have acted as schoolmasters, teaching of liberty and nationality and self-determination. Now the East has learned these catchwords, and as a logical result has demanded that it should be left to run its own affairs in its own way. Feelings have been bitter. There have been broken promises and foolish policies that have led to war and disaster. Among the British there has grown up a profound contempt for the East and the East has developed an equally profound distrust of the British.

Aubrey Herbert had travelled far as a diplomatist, a traveller, and as a soldier. He had learned much, and he concentrated on the Near East. Everywhere he went he made a host of friends, and everywhere he inspired both friendship and trust. Herein lay his great value and his great service to his country. Fierce fanatical Englishmen came to his house in Bruton Street or to Pixton Park from Arabia, Turkey, Kurdistan, and Irak. Each believed that the area in which he worked was of primary importance. Aubrey Herbert disagreed with many of them profoundly. He sympathised with them all. Arabs, Kurds, Egyptians, Jews, Turks, Albanians came to his house and found the same sympathy. His social and political position gave him access to persons of all ranks. Everywhere he worked to bridge the gulf that separates the East and the West, and to explain each to the other. The East trusted him. The West liked and respected him. He was the perfect liaison officer between them.

Of his innumerable other activities much could be said: of his defence of small nations; of his striving to bring the British nation to understand the value of the Moslem world; of his efforts to prevent the last war between Greece and Turkey; of his work for Albania; of his local work in his own constituency. In each, whether in the House of Commons or in a private capacity he showed a generosity, a broad sympathy, a fearlessness of character, and an originality that make him at this critical juncture irreplaceable. F. H. C. A.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Persian Consulate in London has been removed to 4, Broad Street Place, E.C.

General Sir Charles Monro unveiled the Gibraltar war memorial last Thursday at Gibraltar.

Mr. James Grundy, formerly Inspector of Mines for India, has died at Cricklewood, London, aged seventy-one.

The League of Nations Assembly at Geneva last Friday decided unanimously that Abyssinia should be admitted to the League.

The *Agence Anatolie* states that the Hungarian Government has opened negotiations with Turkey for the sending of a diplomatic representative.

The Bishop of London will preside at the annual meeting of the Jerusalem and the East Mission, which will be held at the Church House, Westminster, next Tuesday (October 9).

According to a message to the *Pioneer* from Meshed, 157 persons were killed and 146 injured in the Bujnurd earthquake. Nine villages were totally and twenty-two partially destroyed.

A delegation has left Belgrade for Sofia to negotiate various financial and juridical questions pending between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, in virtue of the Neuilly Treaty and the Nish Convention.

In a sale of war stamps last week a set of twenty-three Baghdad Occupation stamps sold for £200, and four of the rare Persian Coronation issue, overprinted "Bushire, British Occupation," for £88.

The Albanian Parliament has ratified a convention with France, which gives France the right to explore the vast Illyrian necropolis of the valley of the Drin, and also the sites of the ancient cities of Durazzo and Apollonia.

Dr. Harte, general secretary of the Jerusalem Y.M.C.A., has purchased a site of over seven acres in the Nikoforieh district, the gift of the United States. The new building will be the centre of Y.M.C.A. activities in the Near East.

General Weygand, French High Commissioner for Syria, has ordered a commission of experts to investigate the possibility of utilizing the water power of the Nahr Ibrahim, which enters the sea about twelve miles north of Beyrout.

A commission has been appointed by the Government of the Lebanon to report upon the possibility of building a standard gauge coastal railway from Beyrout to Tripolis, thus linking up the former city with the Syrian, Baghdad, and Anatolian systems.

According to the *Pravda* of September 9, Bukharin, a member of the Soviet Political Bureau, stated at the Georgian Communist Conference at Tiflis that Great Britain had attempted to force a war with Russia in the recent difference with the Soviet.

Leading Indian officials and non-officials entertained at a banquet in Simla last Saturday Sir Edward Maclagan, the Governor, for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of his services during his Governorship of the Punjab, from which he is retiring in March next year.

Last Thursday an equestrian statue of Earl Haig, given to the city by Sir Dhunjibhoy Bomanji, of Bombay, was unveiled by the Lord Provost (Sir Thomas Hutchinson) on the Castle Esplanade, Edinburgh. Among those present were the donor and Lady Bomanji and Lady Haig and her two children.

On the arms of the new Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics the "hammer and scythe" are placed across the globe, which is surmounted by the Soviet star. The slogans, calling on the world's proletariat to unite, are printed on the wreath, not only in Russian, but also in the Ukrainian, Tartar, Georgian, Armenian, and White Russian languages.

A number of officers and men who served with the Salonika Force in the war paraded in Whitehall on September 28, and, headed by General Sir George Milne, who was in command in Salonika, marched to the Cenotaph, where the General laid a wreath on behalf of the Salonika Army. Last Friday was the fifth anniversary of the date on which the Bulgarians sought an armistice.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 4 (New Style).
September 21 (Old Style).
Saphar 22, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tishri 25, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sir P. Rajgopal Achariyar left Marseilles last Friday for Bombay.

Colonel Sir Edgar and Lady Bernard left London on September 28 in the P. and O. s.s. Devanha for Malta.

The Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes returned to London on September 29 from Belgrade.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on September 26 from Paris.

Mr. Athelstan Riley has left Jersey for Belgrade and Mount Athos. He will return from the Near East at the end of October.

The Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, returned to London from Sofia on October 2 to resume his duties at the Bulgarian Legation.

Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, M.P., accompanied by Mr. Sydney Arnold, left London on September 26 for Italy, Greece, and Constantinople.

Sir Malcolm Stevenson, High Commissioner of Cyprus, left London last Friday by the British India Company's s.s. Modasa for Port Said.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, who was seriously injured in a motor-car accident a month ago, is now well on the way towards complete recovery.

The Maharaja of Alwar, who is representing the Indian Princes at the Imperial Conference, arrived last week at the Hyde Park Hotel from the Highlands. He will leave for India during November.

H.R.H. the Duke of York will represent the King at the christening of the infant son of the King and Queen of Serbia and heir to the Serbian throne. Lieut.-Colonel Sir Ronald Waterhouse, K.C.B., will accompany the Duke of York.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Mirza Abdul Ali Khan, the Sadigh es-Sultaneh, formerly Persian Minister successively in Washington and Madrid, has been appointed to Berlin, where he entered upon his duties on September 16

Colonel Leslie Wilson, Governor-Designate of Bombay, has appointed Lieutenant Kenneth Previté, Royal Marines, an A.D.C., and he will accompany him to Bombay in November.

OBITUARY.

General Sir Henry Crichton Sclater died suddenly on September 26 at his home in Edenbridge, Kent, in his sixty-eighth year. He entered the Army in 1875. He obtained the brevet rank of major for his services in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, was mentioned in despatches, and acted as Deputy-Assistant Adjutant-General at headquarters. He served in the same capacity and as Quartermaster-General with the Sudan Frontier Field Force in 1885 and the following year, and was present at the action of Giniss. Subsequently he was Director of Artillery at the War Office, Quartermaster-General in India for four years, and Commander of the Quetta Division for four years.

The death occurred on September 22, at Broadfield, Port Glasgow, of George Anderson Tombazis, for thirty-six years Consul for Greece, third son of the late Captain Emanuel Tombazis, and grandson of Admiral James Tombazis, Greek Navy.

The death is announced of Major-General Sir Frederick Bradshaw, one of the few remaining veterans of the Indian Mutiny. His service in the East was considerable and distinguished.

MR. NOEL BUXTON IN BULGARIA.

On September 16, Mr. Noel Buxton, Chairman of the Balkan Committee, arrived in Sofia, accompanied by Mr. B. Riley, Mr. Conwil-Evans, and another friend. They were enthusiastically received, and Mr. Buxton delivered an address at one of the Clubs.

Tuesday, the 18th, was spent at Plevna, where the people gave them an ovation. From the following Wednesday to Saturday they stayed at Varna, Mr. Buxton being the guest of Mme. Stancioff, at the "Villa des Trois Sources." King Boris entertained the English Members of Parliament to lunch at the Palace of Euxinograd, near Varna, the Royal Princesses being present, as well as several prominent Bulgarians, including Mme. Stancioff, and her son and daughter.

Afterwards the party left Bulgaria for Bucharest.

Where to stay in the East

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1923.

PROBLEMS OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES.

Among the larger problems confronting India at the present time, few, if any, are of more profound importance than that which comes before us when we attempt to estimate the future of the universities. India is on the road leading to democracy, and in a democratic country universities are responsible in a peculiar degree for the maintenance and the gradual improvement of the standards of knowledge, culture, and conduct, standards which in such an environment are in danger of progressive degradation. The question thus arises whether the Indian universities are equipped and determined to perform this essential function, or are suffering the debasing influences of the environment to operate without restraint or opposition. To judge by what has lately been said or written in India on this subject, the latter alternative is believed very widely to be the case. A tone of pessimism is indeed almost universal, and it must be admitted that there are some awkward facts for the optimist to face, but at the same time it is necessary to remember that we are dealing with a country where pessimists grow like mushrooms, and when we disentangle the facts from the mass of opinion which adheres to them, we find a situation which is undoubtedly distressing at the moment, but which is not without promise of better things to come. Among the facts which have to be considered, the most obvious is the deplorable condition of the University of Calcutta, the premier institution in the country. Four years have elapsed since the publication of the report of the Sadler Commission, the recommendations of which have been largely adopted elsewhere, but the university for whose special benefit the Commission was appointed remains practically unchanged, and is discredited equally by its academic inefficiency, and by the absorption of its governing authorities in pettinesses and personalities. We may concede to the pessimists that at present the institution is valueless except as a warning to the rest of India, but we are justified in recalling the fact that five years ago many competent judges considered that the position was already too bad to be remedied by reform from within. There is still time for that view to be proved erroneous, but it is more probable that the alternative of reform from above will soon become a fact, and that a new and more efficient university will arise from the ruins of the old. It is on that probability that the optimist relies, and he hopes that the crisis will come quickly.

Of more general significance is the widespread apprehension that the standards of examination are being progressively lowered, owing partly to the weakness of the governing authorities, and partly to the competition for students of the new universities which have been brought into existence in the North of India. In this case, too, there are facts on which a pessimistic view can justly be based, but in our judgment they are temporary phenomena, and they are likely to work their own cure. The truth is that India in general, and Indian employers in particular, have been led to take a false view of the value of academic titles. Following the mistakes made by the public administration, they have treated a certificate of graduation, or of matriculation, as evidence of fitness for work with very little regard to its source or its significance, and such an attitude must in any case result in lowered standards, so long as colleges depend on the income they can draw from fees. It is also true that this tendency has been strengthened temporarily by the increase in number of bodies which grant such titles. There is now competition to attract students, and in the initial stage such competition inevitably takes the form of offering degrees which are cheap but worthless, but this process cannot continue for long. Already up-to-date employers are beginning to consider, not the certificates which a candidate may possess, but the nature of his studies, and the position he has secured in the honours lists, and in our judgment the time is drawing rapidly near when mere titles will possess no value at all. Competition will then enter on a new and much healthier stage. Universities will no longer endeavour to produce graduates in quantity, but will concentrate their efforts on quality; the number of certificates granted will decrease, but the value of each will rise, and it will be easy to appraise them with substantial accuracy. The existing situation is indeed much to be regretted, but it has arisen from the mistakes of the past. The evil will work itself out in time, the process has already begun to operate, and the most urgent need now is that the employers of educated labour, with the various governments at their head, should formally refuse to pay any attention whatever to mere certificates, whether of graduation or matriculation, and should select their staff on more rational lines, by giving due weight to the attainments and capacities of the individual. The Universities will be forced to follow such a lead, and it will not take long for them to escape by this road from the morass in which they are now struggling.

It is, however, by their attitude towards the increase of knowledge that the universities will ultimately stand or fall, and here, happily, it is possible to record definite progress. For a long time Indian students were content to work over the stock of facts which their predecessors had gathered, commenting, elucidating, imagining, but adding nothing new. They are now devoting themselves, in rapidly increasing numbers, to enlarging the existing stock, and this new appetite for research is in our judgment the most significant fact in the whole realm of Indian education. The movement is still in its early stages, and it is easy to point out blemishes. Young workers are not yet subjected to adequate criticism, much crude work is allowed prematurely to see the light, and it would be possible to point to so-called research organisations which are, in fact, little more than mutual admiration societies. At this stage, however, such blemishes are natural, and it is reasonable to hope that they will disappear rapidly as the critical habit develops and the area of research extends. Even now much valuable work is being accomplished, and when the existing enthusiasm is supplemented by greater thoroughness, and, perhaps, somewhat greater modesty, the whole tone of university life will gradually be influenced for good, the evils by which it is now discredited will become impossible, and India will at last obtain an adequate return for the enormous mass of effort which its universities represent. We do not then share the pessimism which, as we have said, is so nearly general in India. Things are bad just now, and for a time they may get worse, but forces making for improvement are coming into action, and the rate of progress may be rapid, if brains, energy, and good will are concentrated on the task.

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A TRAGEDY IN STONE.

By THEO MOGHABGHAB.

Despite Kipling's famous lines—at least the sense into which they are usually construed—the East does meet the West, and far oftener than one would suspect. But let him who doubteth come and contemplate for a moment the minaret-crowned cathedrals of Nicosia and Famagusta in the Island of Cyprus, the country which was once dedicated to the goddess of carnal love and in after times served as a bulwark of the religion of Divine Love.

True, the meeting here is on an utterly different plane, and still more true, unfortunately, it has not been quite happy. To some, perhaps the majority, the unique combination of a Gothic fane built by the Crusaders, the very embodiment of their hopes and aspirations, with the thin soaring minarets, those architectural symbols of the Crescent, affords an indescribable charm and novelty. To others it is a tragedy. But when one comes to gaze upon the Famagusta Cathedral, the subject of this sketch, there is only tragedy—æsthetical and historical—to be found.

The minarets of Nicosia have the pleasant feature of following in a reflex manner the general lines of the building which they surmount, but the single minaret of Famagusta, casually stuck against one of the towers, is an eyesore. Seldom does one come across so plain and ugly a minaret on so beautiful a building.

The impression left upon the mind is that whereas the Moslem conquerors of 1571 understood, in part at least, the rounded forms of the Norman-Gothic of Nicosia, at Famagusta the intricacies of the Pointed Gothic were beyond them, and, so baffled, they stuck up this chimney-like creation. In like manner they seem to have given up the task of rebuilding, in the original style, the portions of the edifice that suffered from bombardment during the famous siege of 1571. It may be, though, that the present minaret is not the original one at all, but simply a makeshift after some earthquake, a series of which made their effects felt at divers times.

How did mediæval Frank art come to be in this easternmost isle of the Mediterranean? An ill wind, bad manners, and a hot temper were the beginning. One must go back as far as the days when that strange enthusiasm which we call the Crusades was still stirring Europe from end to end; to recall to mind how, while Coeur-de-Lion was on his way to the Holy Land to join in the fight against the Mohammedans, ill weather drove some of his ships, on board one of which was his betrothed, to the shores of Cyprus, where they experienced shameful treatment; how Lion-hearted Richard, with his usual impetuosity, wiped off the insult by fighting the prince of the island and conquering the country; how ever after Cyprus was cut off from the Byzantine Empire, and how, after changing several hands, it passed to the hands of the Crusader kings of Jerusalem.

Thenceforward its fate was linked with the House of Lusignan, and when before the relentless pressure of the Moslem hosts the Christian territory dwindled dangerously, their seat was withdrawn to Cyprus. This change was hoped to be temporary, but the island was destined to be the home of the Lusignans for three centuries, during which time it bloomed into a brilliant mediæval kingdom lacking nothing in the arts of civilisation.

Famagusta was but a small fishing village when in 1291 Acre, the last stronghold of the Latin Christians in the Holy Land, fell. The refugees who flocked to it across the water brought with them a new life, which surged in the veins of the whole island, and in the shortest of time Famagusta sprang into fame as the leading mart of the Mediterranean. A new significance was given to Cyprus as having become thenceforward the inheritor of the Crusader kingdom and its ideals, and the only reliable base of operations for the reconquest of the Holy City.

The surplus energy and manhood of Europe found their outlet in this island Eldorado. The years that immediately followed were the golden age of Cyprus. The Crusader kingship was a quasi-religious one, and in no mean measure enjoyed the sentimental allegiance of the West. Sentiment and greed kept up an inflowing of the keenest brains and the brawniest hands. The port of Famagusta, which had come to be the distributing centre of the Eastern trade, was filled with shipping of all climes and fashions. To the student of heraldry no better school could be found, for there could be studied the flags and ensigns of all nations and a bewildering variety of banners emblazoned with the arms of the great families of Europe. Many a scion of a noble house would be among the passengers of an incoming vessel, bent either on taking service under the king or on retrieving his lost fortunes by marrying a daughter of some merchant prince.

Nevertheless, in spite of Famagusta's concern in "filthy lucre," its Crusader associations survived for a good while, and in its episcopal church the Lusignan kings were crowned with utmost pomp and pageantry titular Kings of Jerusalem.

This cathedral, which was built in the beginning of the fourteenth century, rejoices in two names: the first, and true one, that of St. Nicolas, the patron saint of seamen, as behoves the fane of a premier seaport, whose streets, filled with seafarers of all climes, resounded to a babel of tongues. But to the Turks and the present Christian populace it is "Ayia Sophia." It would seem that when the Turkish colonists, who were familiar with their St. Sophia of Constantinople, came over, they were pleasantly surprised to find at Nicosia a magnificent Latin church owning to the same name, and, later on, on coming upon a sister church at Famagusta, promptly dubbed it "St. Sophia," having arrived at the conclusion that this was a general term for all great Christian fanes converted into mosques. The popular explanation is that it is built on the site of an older Greek shrine dedicated to St. Sophia, and that the Greeks persisted in styling the edifice erected by the hated Latins with the original name.

If the church was renowned in Christendom, equally famous was the saint's image within its walls. Of such repute was this miracle-working eikon that it was actually stolen by pirates during one of their raids on the town. One would have expected pirates to be shy of having dealings with a personage whom their victims invoked for deliverance from the pirates themselves!

The fane would be for generations the cynosure of the eyes of many a weary pilgrim on his way to the Holy Land, and its pinnacles, rising skywards and symbolising the chivalry and nobler ideals of the West, would make stout the hearts of those embarking on fresh but futile attempts

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to wrest once more the holy places of Christianity from the hands of Islam. And yet this building, dedicated to sacred purposes, and which should have served as a centre of adoring love, was closely associated with two calamities whose story was fraught with such issues to modern Europe. One, the war between the Lusignan masters of the island and the Republic of Genoa, and the second, the conquest of Cyprus by the Turks.

The first was brought on by a shameful episode which took place during the coronation of Pierre II. de Lusignan in the year of grace 1373. The consuls of Genoa and Venice, those rival republics and incarnations of commercial greed, quarrelled over a matter of precedence and etiquette—the right of holding the reins of the king's horse during the imposing procession which had started back from the church. This unpleasant difference was resumed at the palace banquet when one of the envoys so forgot himself as to throw pellets of bread at his colleague. On the Court authorities deciding in favour of the Venetian envoy, the Genoese guests rose up to attack the king. The insult ended by the Venetians and Cypriots throwing some of the Genoese out of the windows and the king ordering a wholesale massacre of the Genoese colony in the city. Soon, however, he was to repent of his rashness.

Proud Genoa, maddened at the Cypriots siding with their rivals, and wishing to avenge the murdered men, unloosed the dogs of war, and after a most bloody invasion of the island, seized the port of Famagusta—the busiest of its day. The Lusignan kings thenceforth knew it no more except for the pathetic fact that the last of the line, a century later, after wresting it back for a short time, was buried with his infant son in its cathedral. (It was a fitting envoi that the last of the Crusader line should be laid at rest in the building which symbolised the inheritance of Jerusalem.)

From that fatal day, and with the loss of its great port, the island kingdom began to droop and wane, but, worst of all, this affair intensified the deadly hate existing between the two Italian republics and set in motion a series of wars, leagues and counter-leagues, which devastated and scourged Southern Europe for century upon century. Although Venice eighty years later succeeded in extending her sway over the island, this very incident laid the germ of death in the victor's constitution. The continual warfare in the long run told upon the vitality of the queen of the Lagoons, and when in 1570 the Turk turned a covetous eye upon her Eastern colonies, he found them an easy prey.

Nay, more, the quarrel between Genoa and Venice proved, as Professor H. Brown has it in his excellent studies in Venetian history, disastrous to the whole of Europe, "for by exhausting Venice and Genoa it freed the Turk from the control of the two naval powers which alone could have kept him in check."

(To be continued.)

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WISDOM OF THE EAST.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—When that astute Arabian Moawyya became Khalif, or more correctly said, Emir of the Faithful, a herd of camels of his, grazing in the neighbourhood of an Arab chieftain, trespassed on the land of the latter, and did some damage.

On the day after, Moawyya had the surprise of receiving from this chieftain the following abrupt epistle: "Know, O! Moawyya, that thine camels are trespassing on my land, restrain them, else thou shalt hear further from me!" Moawyya submitted the message to his son and heir Yazid, and asked him what he thought he should reply. The young man was most indignant at hearing such language from his father's subject, and replied, without hesitation: "Send an army, of course, to bring you his head!"

But Moawyya took his pen and wrote: "To my honoured and beloved liege so-and-so,—I have received your message and it grieves me much that my camels should have caused you injury. I value nothing more than your goodwill, so I have instructed my man on the spot to make over to you my adjoining land, with all the camels therein."

This reply brought him the following acknowledgment: "Most respected Khalif. God be praised for his endowing you with the wisdom and authority you so rightly wield. I and all I possess are yours!"

In this manner the incident was terminated to the satisfaction of both sides, and the legitimate injury being readily acknowledged added to the honour and power of the unwitting transgressor, and made the injured regret his hasty temper and become consoled for his injury.

France was wittingly injured by Germany.

Italy was unwittingly injured by Greece, but having no Moawyya, they cavil and prevaricate, and so they must suffer humiliation and be made to pay for the damage.—I am, etc.,

September 22. A. SEFI.

CYPRUS.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I gather that the Cypriot Greek is still pursuing his agitation for the union of Cyprus with Greece. I am not aware that events since 1914 have annulled agreements between Britain and Turkey prior to that date. The Convention of June 4, 1878, signed on that date at Constantinople, by Sir A. H. Layard and Safed Pasha, provides that Britain is entitled to occupy and hold Cyprus until Russia evacuates Kars, Batoum and Ardahan. Britain, therefore, has no right to pass Cyprus on to Greece, even if she so wished. (*Vide* "Some Pages of Levantine History," by Rev. H. T. F. Duckworth, formerly Assistant Chaplain in Cyprus, London, 1906, pp. 10-11). Since, however, Italy occupied Rhodes, a report has been current that His British Majesty's Government have decided not to let Cyprus go as long as Italy holds Rhodes. It would seem, therefore, that the Cypriot Greek should cultivate Soviet Russia and Signor Mussolini, and that when that cultivation has borne its fruit, the Cypriot Greeks will find themselves the subjects of a Kemalist Republic. Let us wish them joy.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

Beckbury Hall, Shifnal.
September 27, 1923.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A SUGGESTIVE MANUAL.

"PERSIAN LITERATURE." By Reuben Levy, M.A., Lecturer in Persian in the University of Oxford. (London: Oxford University Press. 2s. net.)

The Persians are a branch of the great Indo-European family whose civilisation possesses many features in common. Their language has many affinities with Sanskrit and the classical tongues of Europe; their national character is wonderfully resilient, enabling them to resist foreign influences which would have crushed a less gifted race. Sovereignty and religion are the twin factors in determining the trend of civilisation for all nations of Aryan descent. They wax and wane with the vicissitudes of dynastic warfare, and their whole outlook on life depends upon the creed which their monarchs may espouse. If the Emperor Charles V. had adopted the principles of the 16th Century Reformation, it is probable that all Christendom would have seceded from the Roman cult; and the annals of Persia record many similar revolutions which gave an entirely new orientation to her national existence. She emerged from the night of time in the 6th Century B.C., when Cyrus the Great founded the Achæmenian dynasty, which endured for nearly 200 years. His successors espoused Zoroastrianism, which stands second to no creed as an inspirer of social effort. The date of its founder's career is still a matter of controversy, but most modern scholars agree in placing it in that marvellous 7th Century before the Christian era, when the world's organised religions crystallised into a definite shape. The Zoroastrian Bible, known as the Avesta, consists of theological treatises and sacred hymns in a dialect closely resembling Sanskrit.

The Achæmenian régime ended with the conquest of Persia by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C., and her literature suffered an eclipse which lasted for five and a-half centuries. The national spirit revived on the advent of a native dynasty in 226 A.D.: the Sassanian Kings waged war on equal terms with the Roman Empire, and their vigorous rule was attended by renascence of letters, which left an enduring mark on the national genius. It produced much theology in the shape of commentaries on the Avesta, and a vast output of legendary lore which the Persian poets of a later age transmuted into deathless verse. Sassanian Persia was known throughout the Roman Empire as Parthia, and her literary language is styled Pehlevi, which is a phonetic rendering of Parthair. It is grounded on the dialect of the Avesta, just as our own mother-tongue preserves the diction and vocabulary of King James the First's Bible.

In 631 A.D. Persia succumbed to the all-conquering sword of Islam. The Pehlevi script gave place to Arabic, and the Avesta to the Koran. But the national spirit survived a revolution which brought with it an entirely novel outlook on the things of this world and the next. During the first century and a-half of Mohammedan rule Persia groaned under the despotic government of the Ummáyád Khalifs, whose fanaticism repressed all literary effort. Her sons, however, acquired immense influence under the Abbasid régime, which began in 750 A.D. The Barmecides, whose rise to power and whose tragic fate are so well known, were Persians by birth; and their countrymen occupied positions of trust in every province of the Baghdad Khalifate. A galaxy of poets arose who sought inspirations in Sassanian legends, and gave a distinctly Persian colouring to

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the Arabic metres which they were forced to employ.

During the 9th century of our era the Abbasid Khalifate underwent the fate which attends all Asiatic dynasties. Decadence set in, and the growing weakness of the central authority encouraged provincial governors to throw off their allegiance. Persian bards were found at every independent Court, eager to sing the monarch's praises. Another renascence of literature followed, and the language of old Iran assumed its present form in the 11th Century, when those of Europe were still in their infancy. All this, and much besides, finds place in a little manual by Professor Reuben Levy, who lectures on Persian at the University of Oxford, and his ample bibliography affords material for intensive study. But a uniform system of transliteration is still to seek. Such renderings as Pahlawi, Khusraw, Parwiz, Firdawsi, betray a Teutonic origin, and are ungainly travesties of proper names, which are far better known in their conventional forms. It is much to be wished that some Oriental scholar would do for Persian what the late Sir W. W Hunter did for the Aryan language, of India. F. H. S.

FCHOES OF THE EAST.

"ORIENTAL BLOSSOMS." By Gwendoline Goodwin. (London: Heath Cranton. 2s. 6d. net.)

When we find no less an authority than the late Dr. John Pollen writing in his "Foreword" to this little book of verse: "I can certify that these little poems breathe the true spirit of the East," our hopes are aroused high within us. So often of late we have had English poetasters attempting artificially or superficially to reproduce the "spirit of the East" that the promise of the real thing is exciting.

But, in sorry truth, we do not catch here the rare and subtle flavour of the East, and this, we think, not only because of the authoress' subjects, but also because of her lack of sense of style. The truths, moreover, that she conveys to us are scarcely new or originally exemplified. We have for long known, even in our ignorant West, that love is a sacrifice, that love alone makes "life worth while," that laughter outlives griefs and woe, and so hackneyedly forth and inevitably on.

Miss Goodwin's muse is certainly tender and frail, but it lacks modesty and craftsmanship. Generally speaking, it runs smoothly enough—sometimes too easily, as witness the descent into such *clichés* as "one perfect whole, this night divine," "the loveliness of Nature in her changing moods," or "bonds of love that nought can sever." At other times there seems to be no excuse at all for versifying her thoughts. For example, what does this gain by being in verse form (it occurs in "To the portrait of an Arab)?

Natheless, one thing I know that Allah gave
To you, your natal day: a saving sense of humour.

Or this?

I conclude this my chant in the Eastern way,
And touching my forehead with reverent hands,
Pray
That the peace of God's Garden abide with you.

Again, her daring does not shrink from pressing into rhyme "religion," "pigeon," and "region"; "Sikhs" and "Styx"; "siren" and "Byron"; and, perhaps most dauntless of all, "Cleopatra" and "flatterer." The "spirit of the East" would have to be portrayed very surely indeed to survive such shocks to the heart as these.

To those who like (and their number is surprisingly large) to have the more obvious aspects of Eastern religion displayed in English verse forms the book may be commended. But serious students either of ethics or of literature will, we imagine, be disappointed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Fabric of Europe." By Harold Stannard. (London: W. Collins, Sons, and Co., Ltd. 10s. net.)

"The Secret of the Desert." By C. C. Turner. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Unconquered Abyssinia as it is To-day." By Charles F. Rey, F.R.G.S. With illustrations and a map. (London: Seeley, Service and Co., Ltd. 21s. net).

"Third Year of the League of Nations. For the Year 1922." By Charles H. Levermore, Ph.D. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Wanderings in Arabia." The authorised abridged edition of "Travels in Arabia Deserta." By Charles M. Doughty. (London: Duckworth and Co. 2 volumes. 20s. net the set.)

"Barrack and Bush in Northern Nigeria." By Herbert C. (Johnny) Hall. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"From Akbar to Aurangzeb" (a Study in Indian Economic History). By W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E. (London: Macmillan and Co. 15s. net.)

"Babylonian Wisdom: Containing the Poem of the Righteous Sufferer, the Dialogue of Pessimism, the Books of Proverbs, and the Supposed Rules of Monthly Diet." By S. Langdon, M.A. With six plates. (London: Luzac and Co. 5s. net.)

"The House of Hope." Poems. By May Wedderburn Cannan. With woodcuts by Phyllis Gardner. (London: Humphrey Milford. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Koinonia Ekklesias" (The Communion of the Ekklesia), and "The Doctrine and Historicity of Pre-existence and Reincarnation." By the Rev. Holden Edward Sampson. (London: William Rider and Son. 1s. each.)

"The Nations of To-day: A New History of the World. 'Japan.'" Edited by John Buchan. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd. 15s. net.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The European Situation.

The developments in Germany during the last couple of days are certainly not such as conduce to hope in an early settlement, which is so essential for the economic welfare of the world. When the German Government decided on the abandonment of passive resistance in the Ruhr, and, in short, surrendered to France, it really seemed that at last the Reparations question was within measurable distance of solution. Unfortunately the upshot has been the outbreak of disorders, first in the Ruhr and then elsewhere in Germany, and once that kind of thing begins it is difficult to know where it is going to end. As a race, however, the Germans have never shown themselves prone to revolutions, and the prospect of the country splitting up into something approaching its constituent portions (which might relieve the apprehensions of our Ally, but would certainly heighten the economic crisis) would therefore seem to be unlikely. One can only hope that we have seen the worst in the present disorders, and that Germany will then settle down to accept the situation, thus rendering possible her own recovery in common with that of the countries for whose condition she is entirely responsible. I cannot lay too much stress on the point that neither Germany nor any other country is in a position to endure indefinitely the present state of affairs.

The Imperial Conference.

The Imperial Conference could not have opened at a more appropriate time than the present, since it is only too evident that in the most favourable circumstances there must be a very appreciable interval before the leading European markets recover, and it is clear therefore that this country must utilise to the full whatever other trade outlets are available in order to relieve the present stagnation here. It is of no use to be too optimistic, for it is obvious that in the immediate future trade within the Empire is capable of only limited expansion, but a good deal can be done in a variety of directions to pave the way for future development, apart from the outstanding essential of the encouragement of emigration on a vast scale. For instance, there is the question of cotton-growing within the Empire. Developments in this direction, particularly in the Sudan, have been dealt with in detail in these columns, and I will only repeat in this connection that the progress that has been made since a few years ago this matter was taken up systematically has been very remarkable. But more, much more, could be done if the Government would lend its support. Lancashire, which has justly been referred to as one of the devastated parts of Great Britain, needs a plentiful supply of cotton, but it also needs cheap cotton. The present position is very disquieting, and it is perfectly evident that any development in the demand would result in something approaching famine prices. That comes of our having been content to rely upon America for our supplies for so long. Following his recent tour, Mr. Himbury gave a very promising estimate of the possible development of cotton-growing in the Empire in five years' time. If special efforts were put forth, that period might be considerably reduced, and Lancashire would be in a position to have the supplies necessary for her great industry.

Imperial Preference.

The question of Imperial Preference, which is to be raised at the Conference, is likely to affect some of the countries in the Near East, for Australia and South Africa favour preference in respect of dried fruit. But the market for the commodities that come under this heading is anything but a limited one, and is, in fact, constantly increasing, so that if, as must be adjudged extremely probable, a duty is imposed, it is not likely to make an extensive difference for some time to come.

Bank of Athens.

A very satisfactory report has been forthcoming from the Bank of Athens for the half-year ended June 30 last. The period in question was marked by disturbed political conditions and constant and extreme fluctuations in the exchange, and in view of the handicap thus imposed on business in general it speaks volumes that the bank should be able to show improved results. The nature of the movements in the exchange will be realised when it is pointed out that at the beginning of the year the drachma stood at about 410, subsequently depreciating still further, but improving by June to about 150. While the capital of the bank remains as it was a year ago, the reserves have been increased, the statutory reserve being now 8,750,000 drachmæ, as compared with 5,250,000 drachmæ, while the special reserve stands at 7,600,000 drachmæ, as against 5,600,000 drachmæ. Deposits have expanded from 493,560,546 drachmæ to 646,797,761 drachmæ, while current accounts total 137,905,539 drachmæ as compared with 84,688,383 drachmæ, and the total of the balance-sheet has increased from 685,896,966 drachmæ to 940,000,032 drachmæ. The interim dividend has been maintained at the customary rate of 5 per cent., leaving 9,914,140 drachmæ to be carried forward.

Roumanian Oil Development.

We are nearing the period of the year when the reports of two of the most important of the Roumanian oil companies are due to make their appearance, and it is only natural that they should

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be eagerly awaited, since it goes without saying that much interesting information should be forthcoming in them and at the ensuing meetings in regard to the position of the respective companies. Interest is particularly keen on this occasion because the particulars available regarding the development of the oil industry in recent months suggest very plainly that rapid strides forward are now being made. The figures given in these columns last week show very clearly the position. Briefly, it has become evident that if conditions outside the industry were only favourable Roumania should already be reaping a very considerable advantage from her oil resources, in which event, of course, the leu would not be standing at a level which hopelessly misrepresents the country's potentialities, and it would be possible to look forward to an immediate future in which the oil industry would be the great asset to Roumania that it should be. Unfortunately, there is no prospect of that eventuality until the transport system has been entirely reconstructed, and that will take a considerable time. It is satisfactory to know that the Roumanian authorities are fully alive to the needs of the situation, and it may be taken for granted that no effort will be spared to shorten the period required to bring the transport system to the requisite condition of efficiency.

Phœnix Oil and Transport.

When transport is no longer a hindrance to progress it will be no exaggeration to say that oil will begin to transform the economic aspect of the country, and it goes without saying, also, that shareholders in the leading oil companies may look forward to a very satisfactory period. Among the companies one of those whose report is nearly due—the Phœnix Oil and Transport—deserves special mention as the leading British company, and one which has great possibilities. More than once in the past I have had occasion to deal with this company in connection with some new expansion of its activities, and there is no need, therefore, to go over the ground again now. I would point out to my readers, however, that the company is in a highly favourable position both as regards oil lands and organisation, and it would seem destined to play a leading rôle in the development of the oil industry in Roumania.

COMMENTATOR.

The recent floods at Gilan have caused damage to 25 per cent. of the rice crops, says a Reuter message from Teheran. The peasants are asking for a proportionate remission of taxation.

The office address of the Commercial Secretary for Turkey, Colonel Harold Woods, O.B.E., will henceforth be British Consular House, Rue Medresse, Galata, Constantinople. Colonel Woods will also retain a private office at the British Embassy in Constantinople.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild and Sons announce that the coupons for the half-yearly dividend due on October 15 next on the outstanding bonds of the Ottoman Three and a-Half per Cent. loan of 1894 (secured by the Egyptian Tribute) will be paid at their office on and after that date.

Messrs. Petters, of Yeovil, at the Mandalay Agricultural Exhibition and Conference, the most important exhibition of its kind in Burma, which closed on August 25, were awarded the silver medal and certificate (highest award) for the exhibit of their oil engines. The exhibit included a range of engines of the medium compression type.

SIR H. BABINGTON SMITH.

We regret to announce the death of Sir Henry Babington Smith, G.B.E., C.H., K.C.B., C.S.I., which occurred on September 29, at his residence, Vineyards, Saffron Walden, at the age of sixty. He was a son of Mr. Archibald Smith, F.R.S., of Jordanhill, Renfrewshire, and was educated at Eton, going from there to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a double first in Classics, was Chancellor's Medallist, and was elected to a Fellowship. In 1887 he entered the Education Department; and four years later was appointed principal private secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Goschen. At the Brussels Monetary Conference in the following year (1892) he acted as secretary of the British delegates. Two years later he became a clerk in the Treasury, but he was not destined to stay there, for in the same year he was selected by the late Lord Elgin, on his acceptance of the Viceroyalty of India, as his private secretary.

Returning to England at the beginning of 1899, he was sent to Natal as the representative of the Treasury. In the following year he was appointed British representative on the Council of Administration of the Ottoman Public Debt, becoming president of that body in 1901. Two years later he came home to become Secretary to the Post Office, an appointment he held until 1909, when he became president of the National Bank of Turkey, with the establishment of which he had not a little to do. He participated subsequently, during the war period, in the formation of the British Trade Corporation and the British Italian Corporation. He was a deputy governor of the British Trade Corporation, and a director of the Bank of England.

In 1915 he was a member of the Finance Mission to the United States, and in 1918 was an Assistant Commissioner for Great Britain in the United States, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary. He presided over the Indian Finance and Currency Committee of 1919, which took, as it turned out, the extremely ill-advised step of recommending a 2s. rupee. Finally, in 1921, he was made Chairman of the Railway Amalgamation Tribunal. In recognition of his many distinguished services Sir Henry received numerous honours. In 1897 he was made a C.S.I., in 1905 a C.B., in 1908 a K.C.B., and in 1920 a G.B.E. He married in 1898 Lady Elizabeth Bruce, daughter of the ninth Earl of Elgin, by whom he had four sons and five daughters.

NEW COMPANY.

Central European Metal Corporation.

The Central European Metal Corporation, Ltd., has been registered as a public company with a nominal capital of £100,000 in 10s. shares to organise, finance and develop the production, transport and marketing of all kinds of metals, and to acquire grants of and over mines and mineral properties in the Central European States or elsewhere, etc. The first directors are:—C. S. Goldman, 17, Park Street, Mayfair, W., merchant; A. H. Moreing, 31, Morpeth Mansions, S.W.1, mining engineer.

The resumption of negotiations is reported for the formation of a Czecho-Slovak-Bulgarian navigation company for the Danube.

Algerian Oilfields—Reports from the Algerian Property—in which the Algerian Oilfields is largely interested—state that the production for August was 108 tons.

In the Baku and Grozny fields, the programme for oil production for the year 1923-24 is 400,000,000 poods. It is estimated that in 1924-25 pre-war figures of production will be reached.

Mr. T. M. Ainscough, O.B.E., Senior Trade Commissioner in India, is at present in this country on an official visit, and will be in attendance at the Department of Overseas Trade during October for the purpose of interviewing manufacturers and merchants interested in trade with India. Such interviews will only be given by appointment, and all applications, quoting the reference 4814 T.G., should be addressed to the Comptroller-General, Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

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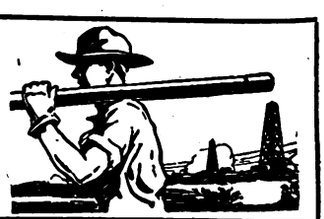

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COMMERCE AND FINANCE IN THE SUDAN

(Continued).

The following further extracts are taken from the report on the Finances, Administration, and Condition of the Sudan in 1922 :—

Forests.

The supply of wood fuel has continued to run smoothly during the year. The requirements of Government departments and the demands of the Tayiba and Barakat pumping installations have been satisfactorily met. The stocks held in the central depots continue to regulate supply and price to domestic consumers. As a result of the fall in the price of coal, which has tended to lessen the demand and lower the price for wood fuel, certain consumers are now preferring the use of coal to wood. This is a welcome development, as it assists the conservation of forests.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the question of reafforestation. With the development of the country and in order to meet, particularly during the war, emergency needs owing to the lack of, or the prohibitive prices of, coal, large areas of forest have been cut down, especially in the White Nile. The problem of their regeneration at a cost compatible with the finances of the country has been receiving serious consideration for some time past. This year successful experiments have been carried out in planting the White Nile mud flats near Khartoum with sunt. The land is inundated annually by the Nile for a period varying from a month at the outside or desert edge to four or five months as the river bed is approached. The depth of inundation varies similarly from a few centimetres to 3 or 4 metres. The soil is a heavy clay, which cracks badly on drying and is of poor quality. In the autumn of 1921, as the flood receded, 15 acres were planted with sunt in a strip running from the desert edge to the river channel. As expected, the seedlings on the higher ground withstood the inundation of the 1922 flood, but, contrary to expectation, the seedlings survived also on the lower ground. The experiment was so successful that following on the 1922 flood, 400 acres have been planted out. The scheme is applicable to large areas of land annually submerged between Khartoum and Kosti. Most of this land is native owned, and it is proposed that afforestation should be carried out through the native owners, Government supplying the seed and providing supervision in the initial stages. The value of a large portion of this area, which is at present unproductive, would be greatly enhanced, and the rate of growth in the experimental area indicates that in a few years' time any danger of shortage of wood fuel in Khartoum will be removed. Sunt growing experiments in the Gezira Research Farm also show great promise. The supply of mahogany from the Bahr-el-Ghazal and Mongalla has been stopped, the cost of transport under present conditions making it impossible to compete with foreign imported wood. A good deal of work in connection with the gum industry has been carried out at Um Ruaba, Kordofan Province, where the experimental gum plantation is proving of great value for statistical purposes. Statistics are carefully kept, and should form a basis for a definite forest policy in the province.

Veterinary.

Disease amongst the livestock of the Sudan has unfortunately been considerably greater than during the previous year. The increase was due almost entirely to a somewhat heavy invasion of cattle plague; this appears to be one of those cyclic invasions to which the country becomes subject every few years. Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia was very little in evidence. Anthrax occurred in the quarantine parks, and an outbreak occurred in the Nuba Mountains Province; the source of this outbreak and of the infection in the quarantine parks were obscure. A veterinary bacteriologist joined the department during the year, and a large amount of routine material has been dealt with. Research work was undertaken, and followed the lines of experiments with trypanosomiasis, contagious pneumonia of goats, epizootic lymphangitis, granular dermatitis, and spirochætous of fowls. Breeding from selected indigenous horses and from imported horses was continued.

The animal export trade was only fair during the year, but suffered somewhat from the appearance of anthrax in the quarantines during the winter. The price of cattle has fallen to practically pre-war figures, but the demand for meat from the Sudan has fallen off very considerably. This is due probably to lesser consumption, an increasing use of Egyptian stock, and to imports from other sources.

The Provinces.

Berber Province.—The riparian Arab has had the advantage of a great reduction in the cost of living, with adequate prices for the disposal of his produce, while for the nomad the excellent grazing obtainable everywhere has made up for the absence of markets for cattle and sheep, and no difficulty has been experienced in collecting taxes. Basin cultivation increased from 800 to 1,500 acres, but some of the crops were of poor quality; they were spoilt by grass, and received less attention than usual, owing to the preoccupation of the people with rain cultivation. There was an increase in cultivation of lands irrigated by Nile flood, but a decrease in the area of water-wheel cultivation. Pump cultivation increased from 13,800 to 15,607 acres, in spite of the fact that the area on Government pumping schemes was less by 1,523 acres than in 1921.

Darfur Province.—Trade, in common with that of the rest of the country, has been in a depressed state, but there are signs of a revival; an excellent harvest is anticipated, and now that public security has been fully restored a resumption of the previous steady progress may be confidently expected. The most pressing need of the province is improved communication with railhead at El Obeid. The main route at present includes several long waterless stretches, which seriously hamper the development of the natural resources of the province, which include cattle, grain, gum, timber, and beeswax. The problem, however, is receiving attention, and suitable sites for well-boring operations are under consideration.

Dongola Province.—The flood of 1921 was slightly better than that of 1920, but was not a good Nile. This year, however, the Nile exceeded all expectations, and, starting from the lowest on record, it rose steadily to a high level, which was maintained for over three weeks, and, in fact, in recent years has only been surpassed by that of 1917. All the islands have been inundated and all the basins filled, so that, unless the crops are attacked by some destructive pest, a period of prosperity as regards the necessities of life is ensured. Prices, however, obtainable for dates and all agricultural produce, on the sale of which the people depend for payment of taxes, have been low, and the scarcity of cash is reflected in the figures for imports by rail, which show 2,386 as against 3,472 tons in the previous year.

Fung Province.—In all essentials the province is largely self-supporting, and the Governor reports that no hardship has been occasioned by the uni-

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versal depression in trade. The material condition of the people is good, though the collapse of the cattle market and the low price of dura, simsim, ground nuts, and other items of export has created as in other parts of the Sudan a shortage of ready money, a state of affairs which it is hoped will pass with improved markets. Latterly there has been a distinct revival in the demand for simsim.

Kassala Province.—In common with the rest of the country, Kassala Province has suffered from a lack of markets for its agricultural produce. Further, the 1921 Gash flood was one of the lowest on record, and the cotton crop a small one. Rain crops were also scanty, so that as a whole the year can only be described as a moderate one. On the other hand, food, owing to the surplus from previous years, is abundant, and the condition of the people remains satisfactory. The labour situation has been generally good. Prospects for the coming year are very much brighter. The Gash flood of 1922 has been the third highest since 1910, rains have been excellent, and cattle plague has practically died out. The advent of the Kassala Railway and the development of the Gash Delta cotton scheme will very shortly completely alter the position and enable the very considerable resources of the province to be developed.

Khartoum Province.—Rains were good, but the efforts of the cultivators were reduced by the smaller return to be expected owing to the low price of agricultural produce, which has also affected riparian cultivation. The fuel supply of the province is a problem which, as time goes on, will increase rather than diminish in difficulty, and the highly interesting experiment in growing sunt seedlings on the White Nile mud flats is of considerable local importance.

Kordofan Province.—Owing to the lack of demand for agricultural produce, trade, except in the case of gum, has been poor, and exports show a large decrease compared with last year. The prime necessity of the province is an increased water supply. Well-boring operations have given an increased supply at El Obeid and on the road between El Obeid and Nahud, and with a bore at Wad Banda, if successful, will have provided a good water supply along the El Obeid-Fasher road as far as the boundary of the province, but much remains to be done.

Nuba Mountains Province.—Financially and economically the year has been disappointing, owing to the general depression in trade. The 1921-22 harvest was on the whole a good one in quality, but showed a large falling off in quantity. A large proportion of the previous year's crop, owing to the lack of demand, could not be disposed of, and this year's crop was, in consequence, limited to personal requirements. Taxation was reduced to meet the situation, and helped to restore confidence, with the result that immediate prospects are brighter and a more hopeful attitude prevails amongst both traders and cultivators.

Red Sea Province.—The Tokar-Trinkitat light railway is proving a success, and the new petrol engines which have replaced the steam engines have markedly improved the efficiency of the line. It is largely used by the local merchants for the transport of their goods and for the conveyance of the cotton crop.

Upper Nile Province.—The revenue of the province shows a small decline, due to the stagnation of trade, which was general, except at Gambeila, and the damage done to crops by the flocks of small birds. It would appear that the real need of this province is the introduction of some such profitable commodity as cotton, and experiments are being made this year in the distribution of cotton seed. Labour has been plentiful at reasonable wages.

White Nile Province.—The outstanding feature of the year has been the cheap and plentiful supply of grain, and nearly all the main articles of food are being sold at prices which compare well with pre-war cost. This state of affairs is most satisfactory as far as the well-being of the natives is concerned, but the low price of animals and grain and the consequent scarcity of ready money has reacted severely on local trade and has made the collection of revenue very difficult. The harvest of 1921-22 was a small one, although the rains were near the average. The rain season of 1922 was good, but the cheap price of dura and the large stocks still in hand blunted the enthusiasm of the cultivators, and the area sown is considerably less than in years of higher prices. The total crop, however, should show an increase on the small 1921-22 crop. As a result of the smaller area under cultivation and the bad trade conditions, the revenue showed some decline, but the general prospect is brighter, and a small increase in demand for cattle and dura is already noticeable.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Bengal Iron.

The report of the Bengal Iron Company, Ltd., for the year ended March 31, 1923, states that the net profit, including £21,703 brought forward from last account, is £308,402. Deducting depreciation and colliery sinking-fund £31,126, debenture interest £41,345, amount written off debenture issue expenses £43,283, transfer to taxation reserve £5,000, transfer to general reserve £15,000, and preference share dividends paid October 2, 1922, and April 3, 1923, £37,500, there is a net balance of £135,148. The directors recommend the payment of a 7 per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares, payable in equal instalments on October 16 and April 16 next, absorbing £110,182, leaving a balance to be carried forward of £24,966. During the year the company's works have been fully employed, and still continue to find a ready market for their output. Considerable extensions and improvements have been made in the works' plant and at the collieries in the same period and the fourth battery of coke ovens is now almost completed. Meeting, Hotel Victoria, W.C.2, October 11, 12.30 p.m.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contract, and must be made by the date mentioned.

Egypt.

Paving Stones.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of paving stones required for the Port of Alexandria. October 15.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Active but Irregular.

The Alexandria Commercial Co., in their report for the week ended September 21, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has again been active, but rather irregular, wide fluctuations have been experienced, and prices close substantially higher than a week ago. The rise in our market is mainly due to the advance in New York, the demand from abroad having somewhat fallen off again. Speculators have been very active and have operated on large lines during the week; "long" operators, favoured by the lack of any large quantity of hedges on the part of growers and interior merchants, have succeeded in pushing up the prices, despite the absence of trade support. As a result of rumours which were spread in the market to the effect that the Sakellarides crop has suffered a certain deterioration, there has been some straddling of Sakellarides against Uppers, and the difference between Sakel November and Ashmouni October is now 4.50 dollars as against 3.87 dollars a week ago. It is now almost certain that the Sakellarides crop will not be as great a success as the Uppers crop, and that the supplies of Sakellarides for the coming season will be considerably less than last year; in spite of this fact, however, it will require a good demand in order to widen the difference between Sakellarides and Ashmouni and, for the time being, prospects for such a demand are not bright. If the American crop turns out to be as small as the latest reports indicate spinners will, first of all, have recourse to Ashmouni cotton as a substitute and Sakel. will only attract attention as prices come nearer to those of Ashmouni. This week's receipts amount to 95,596 krs., against exports 72,758 krs.; the stock stands at 838,578 krs.

Spot.—We have had a busy week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales for the five days amount to about 13,900 bales, of which we estimate 6,400 bales Sakellarides, 7,500 bales Uppers, and a few bales of outside growths. Cotton is now arriving freely from the interior, but the Upper cotton is meeting with a good demand and the first lots of Sakel are also being readily absorbed at fairly reasonable prices.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the medium and good grades have attracted most attention, new crop cotton being fairly quickly taken up. Prices of spot against contracts are generally appreciably dearer than last week.

Uppers.—There has been business in all styles, but the demand continues to centre mainly on the better grades. Spot prices are firm without very much change.

Brown and White.—Only a few bales have been done. Spot quotations are generally firm.

Crop 1923: Picking in Upper Egypt is well advanced. All the factories are well supplied with cotton and the arrivals at Alexandria are increasing daily. In Lower Egypt picking has started, but will not be general before a fortnight. The results here will be, we think, rather irregular, although should present forecasts materialise, the average results should not be below normal.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

An Uncertain Tendency.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended September 26:—

Egyptian Futures.—Egyptian futures opened the week strong, with very little cotton on offer. Both the trade and Continent sent small buying orders and values advanced steadily until a gain of nearly a ½d. per lb. had been marked up, trading in November ultimately taking place at 18.00d., this being the highest figure touched since last March. At this level profit-taking, coupled with straddle selling, made an appearance, checking the advance and absorbing any outstanding buying orders. Later in the week the market, chiefly through general lack of support from the trade and the steady decline in the American section, gradually lost all the initial gain. The Continent again sent small selling orders, and the market, receiving no support, rapidly eased until a total decline of over 1d. per lb. from the top had taken place.

Alexandria has given us no particular lead, contenting itself with conforming more or less to the fluctuations of New York. The difference between October and November remains about the same as last week—viz., 430 points. Not much hedging is apparent at the moment, and the present level, we understand, is maintained to a large extent by purchases on speculative account. Reports on the new crop Sakel are somewhat conflicting. The growth in the Central part of the Delta is reported as being good, but that in the Southern part has been very disappointing; whilst in the North the result is still uncertain. At the moment the market bears a somewhat tired appearance, and, barring the possibility of fireworks from New York (which have a disconcerting habit of upsetting preconceived notions), we think that the course is likely to show a downward tendency, although we do not look for any very material decline from to-day's levels. In the meantime, negotiations in the Ruhr appear to be coming to a head, and this is a possible "outside influence" which may affect very directly the markets of the world.

Egyptian Spot.—The past week has witnessed a change of sentiment, and the tendency for all markets has been a downward one. This is not to be wondered at after the substantial rise that has taken place. Estimates of the American crop are displaying a tendency to improve, and heavy receipts in Alexandria and the arrival of a couple of cotton ships have all contributed towards the easier state of affairs. The trade has come in fairly well on the decline, and a good deal of "fixing" has taken place on every drop of 15-20 points, an index as to what spinners generally think of the situation. It has been rather remarkable that, in spite of a constantly dropping market, sales have been almost up to the previous week's figures, when the market was still on the upward grade. No doubt the fact that the decline has been of a gradual nature is partly responsible for this.

The scramble for Uppers, which has been such a noticeable feature of the daily inquiry for several weeks past, practically ceased on the first sign of a setback, and several importers, whose urgent consignments to meet the demand had just arrived, found their cotton hanging fire in a most unexpected manner. The Upper basis has, in fact, weakened during the past few days, and with new arrivals coming to hand and plenty more on the way, we should not be surprised to find it ease still further, unless in the meantime the U.S.A. decide to purchase another block of cotton in the Alexandria market.

The bulk of the inquiry has been for Sakellaridis cotton up to 150 on November, and rather more of this style of cotton has made its appearance this week. Induced by the easier market, a better inquiry has appeared for the higher grades, and a fair business has taken place, up to 21¼d. being paid; one or two orders have come from the Continent. The usual inquiry for Low cotton, 7d. to 12d., continues. A fair trade has taken place in Sudan cotton, and the basis here maintains itself well. Forwardings to spinners for the week ended 21st inst. were returned as 6,023 bales. Quotations of Sakel are reduced 55 points, and those of Brown and Upper 40 points. Estimated sales, 4,300 bales, to which has to be added 500 bales Sudan. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 18.05d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Market Again Unsettled.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended September 29 states:—

The somewhat better state of affairs reported during the earlier part of this month has not been maintained. It was suggested at the time that possibly the larger sales were due to the fact that the rise in raw cotton rendered possible operations which, on the cost of production, showed a profit, although, of course, based on cost of replacement the prices accepted would have shown a loss. There has been a reactionary tendency in raw cotton, and, as is customary under such circumstances, buyers have been holding off. The market is again in a very unsettled condition, and there continues to be much discussion of ways and means of ameliorating the situation without as yet any practical solution disclosing itself.

Yarn.—There is nothing hopeful to be reported as regards the American section. Prices are somewhat lower following those of the raw material, but business is extremely difficult to negotiate. As regards Egyptian spinnings the position remains fairly satisfactory.

Cloth.—Offers at impossible prices are numerous, but the amount of actual business passing remains most disappointing. The principal outlets call for no special mention, whilst for Near Eastern markets little is done.

Raw Cotton.—As already reported there has been a fall in values, following a similar movement in New York. Reports from the United States are conflicting, and much interest is displayed as to the figures which will be shown by the Agricultural Bureau's report due on Tuesday next. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 17.11d.; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.35.

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CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S EXPORTS.

The British Commercial Secretary at Prague (Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins) has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade an extract from *Narodni Listy* of September 20, which states that the figures published by the State Statistics Bureau for exports for the month of August do not differ much from those published for the month of July. The total weight of goods exported amounted to 1,019,547,864 kg. and 473,189 pieces, representing a value of 981,664,946 Kc., as against goods exported in July to the total weight of 1,115,556,441 kg. and 486,845 pieces, of a value of 1,008,445,766 Kc. July exports thus show a small excess of about 27 millions Kc. over August.

Those goods which took the first place in the export list the previous month remain unchanged. Fuel and coal, of which Czecho-Slovakia exported 82,845 wagons (chiefly to Germany, Austria, Italy, Hungary, and France), holds the first place with a value of 231.4 millions of Kc.; then follow cotton yarn and cotton goods with a total weight of 27,627 quintals and a value of 155 millions of Kc. (the chief buyers being Germany and Austria); then wool and woollen goods (16.138 quintals, valued at 117.9 millions of Kc.), iron and iron goods (of a value of 93,187,186 Kc.); the fifth place is held by glass, representing a value of 80.6 millions of Kc., and the sixth by sugar, of which Czecho-Slovakia exported 724 wagons for 38.9 millions of Kc. (of the last stocks).

With regard to the total exports from Czecho-Slovakia from January to August, the following is of interest. Germany occupies the first place, to which country Czecho-Slovakia exported during the past eight months 1,790 millions of Kc. worth of goods; Austria is second with a value of exported goods of 1,544.9 millions; third comes Hungary, 445.3 millions; fourth U.S.A., 327 millions; fifth Yugoslavia, 318.8; sixth Switzerland, 293.4; seventh Roumania 253.2; eighth Italy, 245.2 millions of Kc., and then come Poland, Holland, France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium. The total amount of goods *imported* in the same period amounted, in weight, to 7,873,395,561 kg., and in number to 3,411,322 pieces, of a total value of 7,602,465,566 Kc.

According to an American Consular report, the tobacco crop of Greece is estimated at about 183,115,350 lbs., an increase of more than 70,000,000 lbs. over the highest yield.

The directors of Messrs. Furness, Withy, and Co. have declared an interim dividend of 6d. per share, net, the same as a year ago, payable November 1.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields output: Gemsah (week ended September 28), 9 tons (last week 12 tons); Hurghada (week ended September 28), 2,599 tons (last week 2,293 tons).

The Council of the Suez Canal Co. have decided as from January 1 next to reduce the transit duty by 25 centimes per ton to the following rates:—For vessels with cargoes, 7.50 frs.; and for vessels in ballast, 5.50 frs.

A Reuter message from Bucharest states that a semi-official statement declares that, in order to increase the export of cereals, the Roumanian Government has decided to suppress the exports permits hitherto required, and to maintain only the export taxes. At the same time, the Government is proceeding with the restoration of the ports, as well as the purchase of locomotives and the repair of rolling stock. As a result of these measures, Roumania will be able during the next three months to export 200,000 trucks of cereals.

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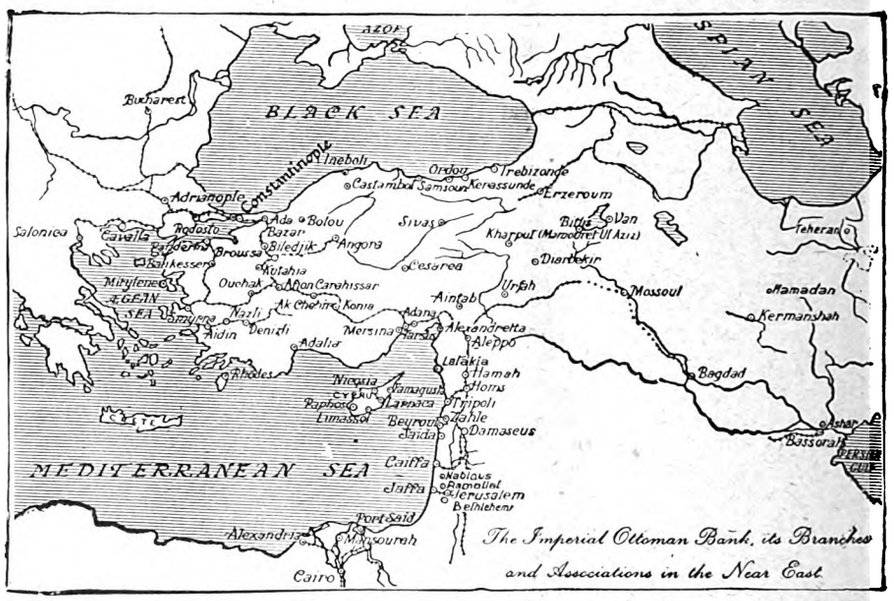

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Stock and Share Markets.

AN UNCERTAIN TENDENCY.

Influence of Political Situation.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

It is some weeks since I dealt with the markets in these columns, for which omission I must plead that these kind of things must be expected in August and September. The intervening period has not been notable for any special movements in the markets. The general tone has, however, been much brighter than for some time, suggesting the belief that conditions in general were on the verge of a definite improvement.

The past week has been one of considerable fluctuations. The announcement of the termination of passive resistance in the Ruhr had a tonic effect in the early period, and the markets took on quite a cheerful appearance, business expanding to unusual proportions for these times. After our recent experiences it seemed too good to last, and unfortunately the improvement was short-lived, owing to the adverse political developments on the Continent, which speedily reduced the markets again to the condition of dullness with which we are only too familiar.

It would be quite useless at the present time to attempt to forecast the course of the markets. Everything depends on what happens in Germany. If the present disturbances should prove to be the beginning and end of disorder in that country we shall be within reasonable distance of the end of the period of uncertainty, and the markets will benefit accordingly, for the end of the Reparations problem means that the time of trade expansion is brought near. If, on the other hand, there should be a prolonged period of disturbance, any idea of buoyant markets in the near future must be put aside.

Gilt-Edged Steady.

Gilt-edged descriptions have risen superior to the prevailing influences, and have, on the whole, made quite a steady showing. Consols are 58 3-16, the Conversion Loan is 78 15-16, War Loan Fives are 102 3-16, and Fundings are 91⅛. Indian issues have been quite firm, with the Seven per Cent. Loan at 119.

The market in Foreign Government securities has been overshadowed by the fluctuations of the exchanges, and, as a result, a very uncertain tendency has prevailed. French stocks have been dull, War Loan Fives being 29½, while the Four per Cents. are 23½. German Three per Cents. have been quite firm, closing at 15s. 6d., while Italian Rentes are steady at 21. A feature during the week has been the strength of Czecho-Slovak Eight per Cents., which are 95½ x.d. The Austrian Loan has also been a good spot, closing at 3 premium. On the other hand, Turkish Unified have displayed considerable weakness, and are closing at 22½.

Industrials Quiet.

The Industrial group has been affected by the prevailing conditions, with the result that the tone can only be described as extremely quiet. This market was particularly active at the beginning of the week, but the developments on the Continent have had the effect of restricting business to insignificant proportions. Tobaccos have continued to make a fairly good showing, with Bats at 108s. 6d. and Imperial Tobaccos at 24s. 3d. Textiles have been rather unsteady, Courtaulds easing off a trifle to 62s. 6d., while Coats are 68s. 3d. There has been very little activity in Iron and Steel descriptions, and prices are much the same. Shipping shares have been quiet, P. and O. Deferred being 311, Cunards 19s., and Furness Withys 31s. Banks have been steady. Chartered of India are 19, National of India are 44¼, Imperial of Persia are 6¾, Agricultural of Egypt are 6¾, National of Egypt are 23, while Westminsters are 17½.

Oils Inactive.

A very dull tendency has prevailed in the Oil market during the past week, and owing to the absence of demand prices in general have tended to move to lower levels. Price changes, however, have for the most part been insignificant. Anglo-Persians close at 2 15-16, while Burmahs are 4 9-16. Roumanian descriptions are generally lower, Phœnix being 15-16, Dacia Romano 23-32, Steaua Romana 7s., and Hamilton's Concessions 1s. 3d. Anglo-Egyptian B are 1 1-16, while Gemsah Oil Reefs are 11-16.

BOSNIAN PRUNES.

It is comparatively recently that Bosnian prunes have attracted widespread attention in this country, although the Bosnian peasants have been engaged in their cultivation for generations (says the *Produce Markets Review*). Apart from local consumption, Austria-Hungary and Germany have in the past been the main consumers, and what shipments of "Bosnians" found their way to this country came mainly from Hamburg. The German importers have been in the habit of buying the prunes in their hard sun-dried condition, packed in sacks, and of curing and re-packing them into boxes in their own curing establishments, or "Etuvagen," as they are technically called, for subsequent distribution throughout Germany and to a lesser extent for re-export.

In Bosnia itself, while certain quantities of prunes are used for ordinary consumption, the bulk of the supplies available after the export requirements have been filled are distilled and converted into an alcoholic beverage of considerable strength, similar to "Kirchwasser." Until recently, therefore, the Bosnian exporters of prunes, having been able to market them in their natural state, had not considered it necessary or advantageous to set up their own "Etuvagen," on modern lines. It having, however, been determined that, on account of their attractive price in comparison with French and Californian prunes, coupled with their delicate flavour, a ready market existed and was capable of considerable development in England and elsewhere, a number of very up-to-date establishments have been built, and direct shipments made. Every care is now being taken to ensure proper grading and packing, and, what is, of course, most important, curing the prunes in such a way that they will retain their natural bloom and sweetness, together with good keeping qualities.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	275-285
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	395-415
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.47-25.50
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{7}{32}$-1.4¼
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	88.70-88.75
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	970-980
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{3}{32}$-1.4¼
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	760-780
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.54⅜-4.54⅝
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	75.70—75.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100⅛-100¼
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	465-495
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	1,600,000*

* Nominal.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

RESTRICTIONS ON GREEK VESSELS AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

The Acting British High Commissioner at Constantinople, in a message dated September 4, states:—Under existing arrangements, which have been in force since November, 1922, Greek vessels are allowed to enter the port of Constantinople in transit for Black Sea ports other than Turkish, and to bunker in the port, but they are not allowed in the inner harbour, nor can they take on or discharge passengers and cargo at Constantinople. The provisional ratification of the Treaty of Peace by the Greek Cabinet may lead to the abolition of these restrictions in the near future, but no statement had been made by the Turkish authorities in this connection up to the time of writing.

LONDON TO BAGHDAD.

In connection with the motor car services which have been inaugurated between Beyrout and Baghdad, the Compagnie des Messageries Maritimes announce that they are issuing first-class tickets from London to Baghdad, via Paris, Marseilles, Beyrout, Haifa, and Damascus at the through rate of £70. The whole journey occupies about ten days.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Castalia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 6).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Matheran for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 11); s.s Anchoria for Port Said. Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 25).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Yorkshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 10); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Nevasa for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 12); s.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 26); s.s. Talma for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 27).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Ranald for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 16).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 12); s.s. Trafford Hall for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 19).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 20).

Ellerman, Westcott and Laurance Line.—S.s. Gourko for Malta and Alexandria (London, October 10).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Malatian for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, October 13).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, October 19); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Kashmir for Bombay (London, October 25); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3).

The prohibition hitherto in force on the importation into Greece of white flour and wheat has been raised.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson, of Liverpool, announce that they have admitted into partnership Mr. J. R. Reynolds, the eldest son of the senior partner of the firm.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 10 amounted to £E6,648.

A Reuter message from Simla, dated September 29, states that the agreement for the direct supply of opium to the Dutch East Indies Government has been renewed for five years.

The Canadian Pacific announce that their liner Empress of Canada—a luxurious oil-burning steamer of 21,500 tons—will proceed on a cruise around the world early in the new year. Calls will be made at Mediterranean ports, Egypt, Bombay, Colombo, Calcutta, Burma, Java, Manila, China, Japan, Honolulu, etc. Detailed itineraries may be obtained from the Canadian Pacific Railway, 62, Charing Cross, London, S.W.1.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 648—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

British Foreign Policy.

In the published report of the review of the foreign situation given to the Imperial Conference by the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston reference is made, among Near Eastern matters, only to the Lausanne Conferences. To be in a position to offer advice on the future lines of British foreign policy it is necessary that the Dominion Prime Ministers should have full knowledge of the Government's policy in the past. The "Turkish entanglement," as Lord Curzon called it, is, however, at an end. There remains the question of Britain's future policy in the Near East, and this, for reasons given elsewhere in this issue, we may hope, will directly or indirectly receive fresh stimulus from the Imperial Conference. All that those who are interested in the Near East ask for is that the tendency to drift aimlessly on the trouble-strewn waters of Near Eastern affairs should yield place to a definite policy on the lines of friendly help for and co-operation with all the Balkan States on the single condition that each one shall live at peace with its neighbour. There can be no lasting settlement in the Balkans with the present *status quo;* but the necessary changes can be made only by peaceful means and friendly agreement. Great Britain is well qualified to play the part of mentor to the Balkan States, and gradually to win them over to an amicable settlement among themselves which will have some prospect of permanency. It must, however, be brought home to the States that British interest in their affairs is henceforth to be informed, sympathetic, and not spasmodic.

Britain and Turkey.

All that Lord Curzon had to say about the new situation in Turkey is amply confirmed from other sources of information. From the British point of view, he declared, perhaps the most satisfactory result of the protracted discussion at Lausanne and the final agreement was the resumption of friendly relations between ourselves and a people with whom we had many connexions in the past. A second result has been that Great Britain has emerged from the proceedings with the largest access of prestige in Turkey, and Lord Curzon added:—"This prestige, coupled with the strong financial position of Great Britain, should enable this country to play such part in the financial and economic reconstruction of Turkey as the stability of the future Turkish Government may justify and our own interests demand." It is true that the destiny of Turkey lies with Turkey herself far more than with anyone else; but there can be little doubt that there is a part waiting for Great Britain to play in the shaping of that destiny which cannot be covered by the negative admission that Turkey starts on her great experiment "with a complete absence of resentment on our part, and with the sincere expression of our good will." We prefer to think that the future relations between the two countries will be better exemplified by the fact that a British Minister, the First Lord of the Admiralty, could visit the Khalif in Constantinople a few weeks ago and converse freely with him in Turkish.

The Turkish Republic.

Punctually to the moment the curtain has been rung down on the occupation of Constantinople by Allied troops, to be raised immediately afterwards for the entry of the Turkish troops who for months past have been waiting on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus for the auspicious day. Turkey enters upon its former career as a republic with a salutary example of discipline and self-control to its credit, for no untoward incident seems to have marred the occasion. Qualities and qualifications harder to acquire will be necessary for the success of the experiment; but in this matter the Turks will have no interference from without to embarrass them. The flaw in the Kemalist programme would seem to be the belief that the inspiration of Angora, which stood the nation in good stead when it was fighting with its back to the wall, will be equally effective for the complicated issues of peace-time. Already Constantinople has shown itself intolerant of Angora's leading strings, and if Mustapha Kemal Pasha is to maintain his authority, it is more than probable that he will have to make it felt more directly in the chief city. By many Turks themselves there is reason to suppose that the republican tendencies are regarded as a passing phase, over which they are too fatalistic to worry greatly at the present stage. They are as anxious as the rest of the world for a

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peaceful existence, and are prepared for the present at least to accept what their leaders provide for them.

The Salonika Free Zone.

The convention, negotiated only after many months of discussion, for the grant by Greece of a free zone at Salonika to Yugoslavia has at last been signed. Greece cedes for a period of fifty years a section of the port covering about six acres, which, while remaining part of Greece and under Greek sovereignty, is to be a Yugoslav Customs enclave, administered by Yugoslav officials. The value of the arrangement is two-fold; it removes, or should remove, a source of friction between the two countries, and it will go some way towards meeting the disability under which Yugoslavia suffers from the absence of a port of her own on the Ægean Sea. The future prosperity of the Balkans calls for a close economic understanding between the several States. A free zone for Yugoslavia at Salonika is a step in this direction, and if it should work smoothly and successfully it may serve to familiarise the countries concerned with a principle that is essential to their development.

The Janina Inquiry.

The past week has produced no further information on the subject of the Janina Inquiry. It will be most unsatisfactory if the Inter-Allied Commission fails to throw more light on the murders, and the Conference of Ambassadors does not contrive to justify its action in ordering the confiscation of the Greek deposit. Application was made to the Albanian Government for permission to continue the Commission's investigations over the Albanian frontier; but, as far as is known, the members of the Commission have left the scene of the murders and have returned to France. No doubt a variety of important matters has tended to push the Greco-Italian dispute into the background, and there is a strong temptation to write Finis over the incident. If, however, this should be done, and no complete judgment passed on the murders, another open sore will be left in the Balkans for the poisoning of the future relations of the countries concerned.

Irak and Palestine.

It was perhaps inevitable that the Duke of Devonshire, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, should be able to give to the Imperial Conference only a colourless statement regarding conditions in the mandated territories of Irak and Palestine. Both countries are passing through a transition stage, and it is impossible at the moment to tell how they will emerge from the ordeal. The British Government claims in regard to Irak that its policy has, on the whole, exceeded beyond expectation. "We also hope," the Duke of Devonshire added, "that we shall have established such strong ties of friendship with the Government and people of the country that they will be glad to make fresh arrangements with us at the termination of the mandatory period, in which our special position as the Power mainly instrumental in achieving Arab liberation will be freely recognised." In the case of Palestine the Colonial Secretary was at no pains to disguise official pessimism over the outlook. "Political unrest is by no means a thing of the past. A solution of the Jew-Arab controversy has yet to be found. The Arab politicians have adopted an attitude of non-co-operation with the Government. They have received a good deal of encouragement from various quarters both in England and elsewhere. We shall, of course, continue to carry out our obligations. There can be no doubt whatever on that point. But the present unrest is undoubtedly doing harm, and we should be glad to see it brought to an end without delay." In the circumstances it is perhaps surprising that Palestine has advanced as far as it is in the face of official gloom and misgivings. A slightly more robust confidence in the measures taken to meet an awkward situation would materially increase the success that has already attended them.

India at the Conference.

For India, as for the rest of the Empire, the outstanding event of last week was the meeting of the Imperial Conference, but the time has been devoted to preliminaries, and so far the only definite action to record has been the decision to allot a session for consideration of the position of Indians in the Empire. For Indian readers the chief interest of the proceedings lies in Mr. Baldwin's clear statement of his own attitude, which presumably is also the attitude of the Home Government. When he spoke of "the stupendous task of educating one-fifth of the human race to the burdens and privileges of responsible government," he showed at least that he has got down to essentials, and his plea for sympathetic understanding, which is something quite distinct from the slushy "sympathy" of earlier days, was particularly timely. Some prominent Indians are just now rather inclined to grasp at the new privileges while ignoring the new burdens. That is, of course, only human nature, and it ought not to excite surprise, but it is a part of human nature which requires to be kept under control, and it is for this reason that we have been accustomed to lay stress on the work to be done rather than the reward which honest work can hope to win.

Progress in Electioneering.

We commented recently on the obvious defects in the various political programmes which are being offered to Indian electors, so it is only fair to make some mention of the manifesto issued by the Ministers of the United Provinces, which reached us by the last mail, and seems to us to mark a definite advance in electioneering practice. It is not too long, it has some phrases which may "stick," and it defines the writers' position clearly, without committing them to unnecessary details. The present Ministers are landholders, and they are proud of the fact. They identify themselves with the agricultural interest, which is predominant in the province, and they make a straightforward bid for popular support. There is, of course, another side to their claims, for the politics of the province are shaping themselves on definitely agrarian lines, and the tenants' advocates are not likely to rally to the landholders just yet, but nevertheless the manifesto is a sound piece of electioneering, an accomplishment which is not in itself particularly admirable, but which is a necessary equipment for the long journey towards democratic self-government.

The Extravagance of India.

The report of the Controller of Currency for 1922-23 gives an even more lurid picture of Indian extravagance than we felt justified in offering when last we referred to the subject. India is a great lady in possession of a vast estate. Last year, after a lean period, she had a comfortable income, and so she laid out about sixty crores of rupees on jewellery. It is true that her house is unfit for human habitation; it is pestered with rats and mosquitoes to an extent which makes plague and malaria practical certainties; the very water is often dangerous to drink; there is no money to pay

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doctors' bills; the children run wild for want of schooling, or are left to the mercy of half-starved and incompetent teachers: every corner of the estate is crying out for money to be spent on profitable improvements; even its boundaries are not safe from dangerous marauders; but all such matters must wait, for the jeweller insists on cash payment, and his little bill of just forty millions sterling leaves nothing for shabby necessaries. And all this has been going on for, at any rate, twenty centuries: is it any wonder that the great lady is at once poor and a pessimist?

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The Imperial Conference.

Although much, one imagines, must be going on behind the scenes, there is from the Imperial Conference, which has been meeting this last week, nothing as yet to report. The stage has been splendidly set, the orchestra has been tuned up (a certain delay occurring owing to the late arrival of one of the first violins, Mr. Bruce), but the real business of the theatre has not yet begun. Probably the most notable feature of the whole affair has been the attempt in some quarters to magnify —in fact, to make paramount—the importance of General Smuts. Obviously there is to be a campaign in favour of his taking a larger part in Imperial matters than now lies within his capacity; the League of Nations devotees are already preparing the lists in his behalf. No one denies the enormous ability of General Smuts; but it should not be forgotten that he has in this country his opponents, who remember how he was entrusted during the War by Mr. Lloyd George to seek out terms of a peace by negotiation.

Out of all the vague courtesies one thing, however, has definitely emerged, and that is in regard to British foreign policy, the policy, that is, advised by Lord Curzon.

Our Foreign Policy.

The statement on foreign affairs by Lord Curzon came as a sharp disappointment. One had felt that behind all the Premier's nice reticence on the re-establishment of the Entente there might be something solid, something tangible, round which British public opinion might crystallise and rally. But now from the Foreign Secretary we learn that matters have not progressed one single step, that England stands still on the impossible ground of months ago, from which lofty height she preached her derided sermon to France. Our Government is, in short, cultivating a perfect *flair* for the "wait and see" method.

Quite frankly, this in the circumstances will not do. If we cannot get leading on the European question, at least we are entitled to light. But, in thus choosing to wait upon M. Poincaré's actions, we are completely in the dark. In their opposition to this do-nothing policy passionate loyalist and pacifist are at one, and, in addition, the more sober minds between these two extremes are wearying of England's impotent attitude.

The ordinary man had hoped—so strongly that even yet he is not convinced that he is wrong—that Mr. Baldwin had some incommunicable trick up his sleeve. This failing, he expects at the least some patter—instead of which he gets nothing, nothing but barren platitudes, which are dry before the printer's ink in which they are set for us. Somebody, indeed, has put the case rather neatly in the form of a question: Is our Premier the strong silent Englishman, or is he merely an embarrassed Minister with nothing to say?

Battleships.

A lecture that was much more entertaining than instructive was given on Battleships last week in London by Admiral Sir Doveton Sturdee. The importance and the future of battleships is a question that is exercising every intelligent mind at the present time, but it can scarcely be said that Admiral Sturdee's defence of them (and, subsequently, Sir Percy Scott's attack on them) resulted in the formation of any definite opinion. We know that the present Board of Admiralty favours battleships, but we should like to know more than was told us last week about its reasons for favouring them.

Admiral Sturdee said that we must build battleships because other people build them, but that can hardly have been his real meaning. For this country sets the lead, and does not copy other countries, in naval construction. The average man, although, of course, perfectly content to leave the final decision in the hands of experts, seems to think that the future of sea supremacy lies with those who are strongest under the surface and above the surface, and would naturally be extremely interested to know why he is wrong.

Changes in Newspaper Control.

The news that Sir Edward Hulton has sold his papers to Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook ought to interest the public much more than it appears to have done. It is to be regretted, at least in the sense that it decreases the number of newspaper proprietors, for although we know well the reasons for their widely conflicting views, the wider the variety the greater the possibility of finding some truth. Instead of which, we are, presumably, to have the opinions of the *Daily Mail* and of the *Daily Express* repeated in different forms, and repeated, moreover, to a public which will soon forget the names of the proprietors of the papers which they are reading. I am not saying that the views of the *Mail* and of the *Express* are wrong, but merely that they are at the present quite adequately represented.

Beckett and Carpentier.

He was a very wise prophet who, in a revue produced a few days before the Beckett-Carpentier

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fight, said, on being told that his friend had gone to Canterbury to see the tomb of Becket, "Oh, I thought the fight was next Monday." Beckett, indeed, fell last week to the uttermost depths, being knocked out in fifteen seconds.

It is said by those who know—but always, unhappily, after the event—that Beckett never was a real boxer, that he was British heavy-weight champion only in virtue of the commercialisation of boxing, which has absolutely squeezed out the idea or possibility of sport, and so on. As, however, this, or something of the sort, is said after every big fight, we pay little attention, and meanwhile immerse ourselves in shame that Britain has been beaten by France. The fact that we were not adequately represented makes no difference—at least, no more difference than in the case of the impotence of the British Government compared with the confident activity of the French.

The Panel System.

Hard words were flung at the doctors, supposed to be the finest trade union in the country, when they caved in to the proposals of the Insurance Act and consented to work the panel system. Now the system has undoubtedly benefited them financially, so much so that when complaint is made of the poverty of panel treatment in some cases, public sympathy is generally with those nursing a grievance.

Public sympathy is again with the official proposal to reduce the panel rate from 9s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. for three years and to 8s. for five years. It is said that the British Medical Association will oppose the reduction, but I am not in the least competent to discuss whether, in view of the general fall in prices, they would, or would not, be justified. The medical profession does not perhaps stand quite so high as it did, but every profession has become a little besmirched by the extreme hardness of the times.

Broadcasting.

It was inevitable that in the early stages of so wonderful an invention as broadcasting there should be a certain amount of chaos in the relations between the State, the private company, and the public. The existence of this chaos has been thoroughly recognised, but it is not wholly removed by the publication of the Broadcasting Committee's recommendations, and of the Postmaster-General's modifications of them. For, as far as one can see, the State is in the unhappy position of having to trust the public to pay the piper—people are given until October 15 to legitimise their instruments. After that, what will happen nobody quite knows. Ultimately, one supposes, broadcasting will be a Government service. It is, after all, so much safer and simpler to make people pay for their entertainment than to trust to their honourable willingness to do so.

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"BRITON" AND "BRITISHER."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—You invite discussion of the designations which are the heading to this letter. The word "Britisher" has stunk in the British nostril for many a long day, and yet in the last quarter of a century I have noted its use by British writers with increasing frequency. Whenever opportunity offered I remonstrated. In the thick of the Irish troubles some ardent Irish Loyalist sent me a pamphlet published in Ireland. The pamphlet was loyal to the backbone to the British Union, but it introduced that word "Britisher," so offensive to the English. My remonstrance elicited the assurance that in the next edition of the pamphlet the offending word would be altered. I took up my *Times* some twenty years ago, and found one of Colonel Sir Lonsdale Hale's usually admirable contributions. But this one introduced "Britisher" with a nonchalance which astonished me. I imagined that such a word would have been anathema to Lonsdale Hale. After that, I believe, I addressed a letter to the secretary of the British Academy, and begged the Academy to boycott "Britisher." That letter elicited an entirely sympathetic reply; but there it ended.

When the word "Britisher" was invented by our loving cousins across the Atlantic I have not the means here to ascertain. Among the books which are at my disposal, Mayne Reid's "Quadroon," published in 1856, gives the earliest instance known to me. It was written after Mayne Reid had spent some ten years in the States. The hero of the "Quadroon," who has just "laid out Bully Bill," overhears a conversation about his performance, of which the fragment which concerns my subject is this:—

"English, ain't he?"

"Don't know. He's a Britisher, I believe. English, Irish, or Scotch, he's a hull team an' a cross dog under the wagon. By G——! he laid out Bully Bill straight as a fence-rail, wi' nothin' but a bit o' a whup, and then tuk Bill's pistols away from him! Ha! Ha! Ha!"

The "Britisher" was evidently "top-dog." I myself favour the adoption of "Briton" as the designation of the British citizen. We shall accustom ourselves to it in its up-to-date sense before long.—I am, etc.,

A. C. Yate.

King Fuad has fixed November 3 for the first stage of the Egyptian Senatorial elections.

M. Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived in Paris at the end of last week on a short visit.

General Sir Charles Harington, on the arrival of the P. and O. liner Arabia at Malta last Thursday, was visited on board by Lord Plumer, the Governor of the island.

The Palestine Moslem delegation, which is collecting money for repairs of the Mosque of Omar-el-Oska, left Suez on October 7 for Bombay, where it will be received by members of the Khalifate Congress, who have undertaken to assist in the appeal for funds. From India the delegation will go to Afghanistan, thence to Java, and finally to China.

The transport Vedic, which arrived at Southampton on October 3, brought home two squadrons, together with headquarters and aerodrome parties, of the Royal Air Force from Constantinople. On arrival they found a message of greeting awaiting them from the Air Council, stating that the wing had carried out its allotted tasks with the utmost zeal and efficiency, and in a manner redounding to the credit of the force.

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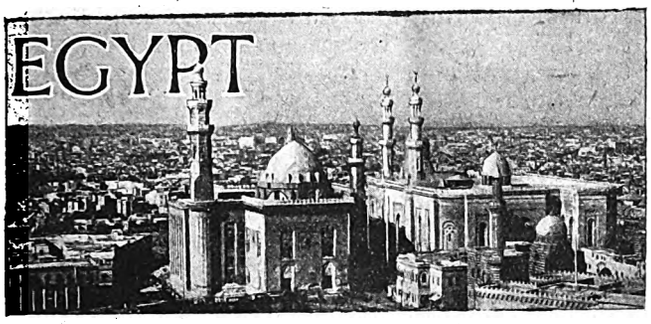
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, September 30.

The Elections.

The first stage of the elections, the balloting for elector delegates, passed off on Thursday in an atmosphere of complete calm, so far, at least, as the capital and Alexandria were concerned. Reports are coming in of one or two minor troubles in various parts of the provinces, including a free fight in the Fayoum, which resulted in one man being killed and two seriously injured; but, for the most part, the business of voting was carried out in remarkable tranquillity. So far as it is possible to judge at this stage, the Zaghloulists have scored a triumph in the cities, where, they declare, 90 per cent. of the delegates elected are of the Zaghloulist persuasion. In the provinces, too, so the Wafd claims, a large majority of the chosen are of the same political colour. These estimates may be misleading, for even if an elector delegate secured the suffrages of his neighbours because he supported a certain political creed, he may change his views before the time comes for him to exercise his vote. But, even after every such reservation has been made, there seems little doubt that the Zaghloulist Party has, in the first stage of the election, secured the large majority which it anticipated. Failing any sudden and striking development in the local political situation, the result of the polling for elector delegates should mean that the Zaghloulists will have a very big majority in the Parliament. The party's newspapers are already predicting that the composition of the Chamber will be, roughly: Zaghloulists 200, Liberal Constitutionals 15 to 20, and Nationalists 6 to 10. This would mean that there would be practically no opposition, which would be regrettable, but, though forecasts at this stage are likely to be falsified by events, it is to be feared that there is little chance of any vigorous antagonism within the Chamber to the top-heavy majority which the elections seem likely to produce.

The Wafd's Organising Ability.

The success of the Zaghloulists has been entirely deserved from at least one point of view. They alone took the elections—or the first stage of them—seriously. While the Nationalists and the Liberal Constitutionals were content to do nothing in the way of organisation, public meetings, circularising voters, or any other form of usual election propaganda, the Wafd, during the last few weeks, have been working like beavers. Committees have been formed in every electoral district. The Wafd committee made its selection from each group of thirty, secured a promise from the man of its choice to support the Zaghloulist candidate in his constituency, and then circularised every voter in the group, explaining to him where and how he had to vote, informing him of the name of the member of his group who had been selected by the Wafd, and begging the voter to exercise his suffrage on behalf of the man so chosen. No doubt, by this means, the Zaghloulists secured the election of the men of their choice in groups where only a minority supported the Wafd. It must have frequently happened, for example, that in a group which contained twenty supporters of the Liberal Constitutionals and ten Zaghloulists, the majority, through lacking a lead from their organisation, scattered their votes in favour of half a dozen different men, while the ten Zaghloulists, by concentrating on one nominee, secured his election. Great credit is certainly due to the Zaghloulists for their initiative and energy, of which they have reaped the reward.

Abstentions.

Though it will be impossible, until the official statistics are issued, to say what was the percentage of voters who exercised their right, it appears that there was a large number of abstentions, particularly in the larger towns. In Cairo, for instance, out of 4,463 groups of 30 voters, there were 419 in which not a single voter went to the poll. There are, therefore, 419 fewer elector delegates than there should be to represent the 148,506 voters of the city at the elections proper. In Alexandria, the abstentions must have been in much higher proportion, for there, out of 2,576 groups, there were 719 in which not a single vote was recorded. Besides the groups in which the abstention was complete, there must have been very many, probably a majority of groups, in which only a proportion of the voters used their suffrages. It looks, therefore, as though the percentage of votes cast in relation to the electorate must, in Cairo and Alexandria at least, have been decidedly small.

The Ghaffir Tax.

For some time past there has been much correspondence in the foreign Press of this country regarding the liability of subjects of Capitulatory Powers for payment of the ghaffir tax. Before the War the tax was collected only in country districts, and only from local subjects. During the War the impost was extended to the towns, and, at the same time a proclamation was issued under martial law making all residents in the country liable for payment. Since the abolition of martial law the tax has still been collected from foreigners, the Government quoting as authority a law many years old, the applicability of which is disputed by the local French and Italian newspapers. It appears that there may now be a test case, for an Italian subject has refused to pay the tax, and the Italian Consul, on being applied to by the Egyptian police for permission to levy distraint on the refractory

*Under this heading appear weekly, or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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taxpayer, has refused, and has further stated that he has informed Italian subjects that they should not pay the tax.

A Bank's Failure.

There was quite a commotion in Shareh Maghraby on Friday morning outside the offices of the Banque Populaire Hellénique. The bank's doors were not opened at the usual time, and customers, alarmed by rumours which had been in circulation since the previous afternoon, had gathered in force to withdraw their deposits. They were, however, too late. On the previous day a customer, wishing to cash a cheque for £E150, was informed that there were no funds with which his cheque could be met. That appears to have been the literal truth, for the bank seems not to have had a piastre on the premises. The managing proprietor of the concern had not attended business for some four or five days, having sent a message on the first day of his absence to say that he was ill. When he did not appear after two or three days a search was made for him, but he could not be found, and it is generally supposed that he has left the country, taking with him, so it is said, the whole of the bank's liquid assets, variously estimated at from £E25,000 to £E40,000.

The Banque Populaire had been in existence about three years, and had secured a good deal of business from persons, mostly of slender means, who were attracted by the offer of a high rate of interest on their modest savings. It is to be feared that many of these poor, credulous creatures have lost every penny they had been able to scrape together by years of toilsome economy. The affair has had an immediate effect on the credit of other small Greek banking institutions, several of which experienced heavy withdrawals by customers during Friday and yesterday.

GREECE.

Athens, September 29.

The Political Tangle.

Ten days ago the thorny political problem in Greece was almost solved. M. Zaimis—Greece's only politician who is to-day looked upon with favour by the Allies—had, after careful and long consideration, informed the leaders of the "Revolution" that he had definitely decided to participate in the forthcoming electoral campaign as leader of a new Party, which would henceforth be known as the "Reconciliation Party," owing to the fact that its sole aim would be the bridging of the deep gulf which has since 1917 divided the Greek nation into two hostile camps—the Venizelist and the Royalist. With the exception probably of General Metaxas's followers, who in reality are only camouflaged Constantinists, M. Zaimis's decision was received with immense relief by everybody. The people of Greece, whether Venizelist or "Antis," literally weary of the bitter internal quarrels, heralded the veteran ex-Premier as a new Moses, and his success at the polls was assured. Elections were fixed for October 28, and everybody seemed perfectly satisfied. And then the bomb exploded. "M. Zaimis retires from politics," or "M. Zaimis's Reconciliation Party is a wash-out," so ran the headlines of nearly all the Athens papers one morning during the early part of last week. Immediately below these headlines the following *communiqué* appeared: "We have done our utmost to ensure the restoration of internal peace by uniting all moderate elements. Unfortunately, our seven weeks of effort have met with unforeseen obstacles, and our plans have come to nothing. We are, therefore, compelled to discontinue our work, which we consider to have been absolutely useless."

The Decision of M. Zaimis.

For some days past it was rumoured that M. Zaimis, objecting to certain recent changes which the Revolutionary Government had introduced in the electoral law, felt inclined to discontinue his efforts to form the "Reconciliation Party." These rumours were not, however, taken seriously by the public, which believed that M. Zaimis would not shirk his responsibilities at the last minute, and that the only thing he was likely to do would be to ask the Revolutionaries to cancel certain of the alterations in the electoral law.

M. Zaimis's decision naturally alarmed the Revolutionaries and Venizelists, who realise that all hopes of reconciliation are now dashed, and that the chances of a Metaxist electoral victory are greatly enhanced. General elections were immediately put off until December 2, and the Cabinet met on several occasions to discuss the new situation. Many suggestions have been set forth, one being that Colonel Gonatas, the present Premier, should assume the leadership of a coalition consisting of the Venizelists, Revolutionaries, Democrats, and possibly some of the anti-Venizelists, providing they are not friendly disposed towards General Metaxas. Another suggestion is that the Venizelists and Revolutionaries stand together against all the other parties, and in case of an electoral victory offer the Premiership to M. Zaimis.

It is absolutely impossible at present to say what is going to happen. The situation is in such a tangle that an attempt to predict how matters are likely to develop is beyond anybody's power. In view of this very unsatisfactory state of affairs, a further postponement of the elections—possibly until next spring—should surprise nobody, although that would only make matters worse.

The Italians at Corfu.

Although the National Bank of Switzerland was instructed yesterday by the Greek Government to place the sum of fifty million lirettas at the disposal of the National Bank of Italy, on account of the Italian Government, the Italian fleet shows no signs that it intends to leave Corfu. As a matter of fact, the Italians, in conformity with the

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decision of the Conference of Ambassadors, evacuated the island on the morning of the 27th, and Signor Mussolini's fleet, after rendering honours to the Greek flag, which was rehoisted on the old fortress, had left by 8.30 a.m. Soon after noon, however, and while the majority of the Corfiotes were busy making preparations for the "liberty" celebrations which were held on the following day, the Italian warships reappeared outside the harbour. But no troops were landed. "They had come back," said Admiral Solari, "acting upon orders from the Italian Government." He did not know the reason; but, in any case, the islanders need have no fear!" At the time of writing there are four Dreadnoughts, eight destroyers, and two crowded transports outside Corfu harbour.

Greece's Reply.

The Hellenic Government's reply to the last Note from the Conference of Ambassadors was presented to the French Minister here at noon to-day. In her reply, Greece, after informing the Conference of Ambassadors that the National Bank of Switzerland had already been instructed to pay Italy the 50 million lirettas, protests strongly against the Ambassadors' decision. She repudiates the Ambassadors' assertion that Greece had failed to comply with the fifth clause of their Note presented on September 8, and declares that everything humanly possible was done to track the Tellini murderers. In addition to dispatching to Yanina her most able police and judicial officials, including Inspector Read, of the British Police Mission, Greece offered a reward of one million drs. for any useful information regarding the culprits. After pointing out that there are strong reasons to believe that the plot was engineered in Argyrocastro, and committed by Albanian agents, the reply goes on to say that the amount of the penalty imposed upon Greece is enormous, there being no precedent in the history of diplomacy of a nation having to pay so many millions for a crime committed on its territory. In conclusion, the reply says that Greece will abide by the Ambassadors' decision, however cruel it may be; but she will make use of the right of every condemned to appeal against the decision, and suggests that her protest be taken up by The Hague International Tribunal.

Satisfying Italian Honour.

The most humiliating of all the conditions of the Conference of Ambassadors was fulfilled last week when the Greek Fleet saluted the Allied flags in the bay of New Phaleron. The Allied fleet, consisting of eight Italian, one British, and one French unit, arrived off Phaleron shortly before 10, and five minutes later the guns of the battleships Averoff and Kilkis boomed out Greece's regrets for the Yanina murders. The Italians were the first to receive the salute, and the French last, the flag of each nation being run to the masthead of both of the Greek warships while the salute was in progress. The Greek salute was returned two hours later, when the signal announcing the end of the funeral service in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Denis in Athens was received at Phaleron. The ceremony lasted a little less than three hours, and during the whole time the promenades of both New and Old Phaleron were deserted, even the windows and doors of the houses and shops along the seafront being hermetically closed as a sign of protest. Apart from the diplomatic corps and the Greek Cabinet, the only other people present at the Athens funeral service were the Italian *fascisti* residing in Athens. The anti-*fascisti* element, which represents two-thirds of the Italian colony in Athens, abstained from the service.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, September 27.

The Parliamentary Situation.

After a prolonged holiday, the Skupshtina reassembled on September 20 for a short session, merely to pass the Three Months' Budget for October, November, and December, and to vote for the Law for the by no means inconsiderable increase in State Dues. As usual, before the beginning of a Parliamentary session, all manner of reports concerning changes in the Parliamentary situation are being assiduously launched, and there is no lack of prophecies of an approaching fall of the Government. Probably, however, all these reports are exaggerated, because the position of the Government has remained in essentials the same.

M. Raditch will continue to recommend a policy of abstention to his following, and so make it possible for the Radicals to count on an assured majority in the Skupshtina. It is true that at the last meeting of the Federalist Bloc Dr. Koroshets, the leader of the Slovene Catholic Party, tried to persuade the Raditch deputies to appear in the Skupshtina, but his efforts were unsuccessful. The fact is that the leaders of the Raditch party are too afraid that any and every action on their part in Belgrade will be viewed by their constituents as a capitulation to the Belgrade Government, since the Radicals are in the position at any time to turn a defeat of their all-Radical Government into victory—as far as the Raditch party are concerned—by the simple expedient of forming a Radical-Democrat Coalition with an anti-Raditch programme.

But in the absence of the Raditch deputies the Opposition, even if it presents a united front, cannot force a defeat of the Government so long as the latter has the support of the Germans and Turks. True, the Democrat papers maintain that the Government can no longer count on this support as the spirit of Opposition is on the increase in both groups. All reports of an approaching change in the tactics of the Germans and Turks can, however, be explained by the facts that before the beginning of the Parliamentary session the conditions for continued support for the Government have to be renewed, and that both Germans and Turks hope to improve upon the bargain for their votes on this occasion. The recent order for the opening of a German Gymnasium (secondary school) in Liubliana, if the requisite number of scholars be forthcoming, shows that the agreement between Radicals and Germans, at any rate, is already an accomplished fact.

Radicals and Democrats.

All the same, the Democrats hope to inflict a defeat upon the Radicals, and that through a great

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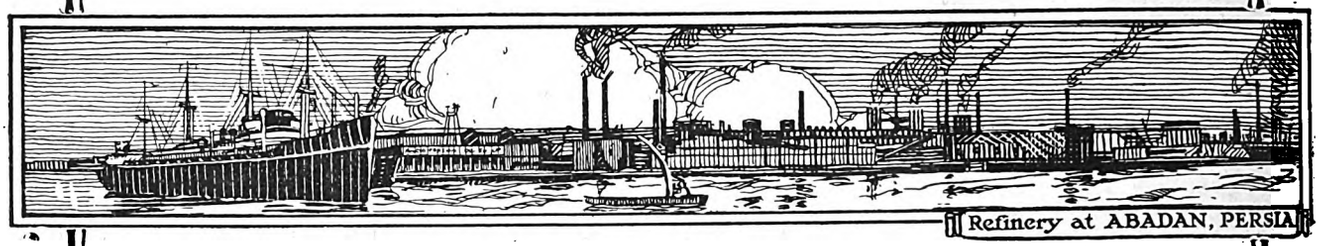

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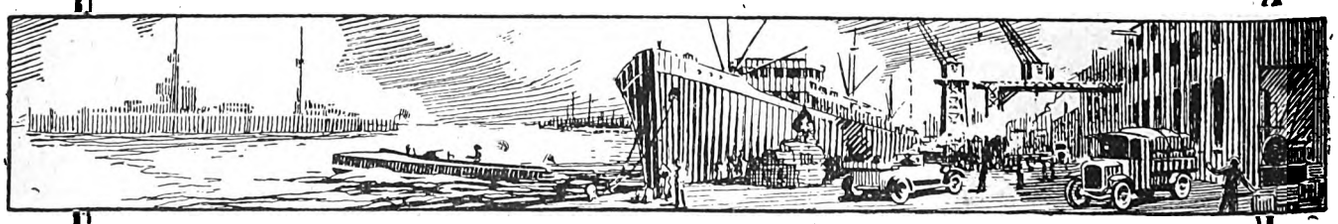

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debate upon the Fiume question. As this question is undoubtedly one of general national interest, and nobody in Yugoslavia, not even the Radical deputies, is satisfied with the present position in regard to it, the Democrats hope by this means to break up the united front of the Radical Club. Most certainly this plan might have a fair chance of success, were it not for the great authority wielded by M. Pashitch in the Club, which keeps an effective check on all attempts at separate action. It is safe to say that so long as Pashitch lives unity within the ranks of the Radical Club will rest assured, and with it the predominant position of the Radicals themselves. A break up from within may come about after his exit, but not before. Even then it is by no means certain that the Democrats will come in for the heritage. On the contrary, much goes to show that in that case the Agrarian Party would become greatly strengthened, as it is the Agrarian group under Rankovitch in the Club which even at present shows the greatest tendency to rebel.

And so it may safely be assumed that the Skupshtina will be able to solve its task without special difficulty.

Prince Peter of Montenegro.

Prince Peter, youngest son of the late King Nicolas of Montenegro, has arrived in Belgrade, and was received by King Alexander and Queen Maria. In an interview the Prince stated that he desired to be a loyal citizen of Yugoslavia and had been delighted with his cordial reception at the Court. It must be remembered that the late King Peter of Serbia was married to King Nicolas's daughter Zorka, and that therefore King Alexander is Prince Peter's nephew. This arrival of Prince Peter in Belgrade means the complete liquidation of the Montenegrin question. All the same, loud protests against the Prince's return are being heard from the Opposition parties.

The Fiume Question.

Whereas public opinion and the Press abroad have been greatly perturbed of late over the Fiume question, and sundry warlike preparations even gave rise to fears of a war between Italy and Yugoslavia, things were taken very quietly over here. The concentration of Italian forces on the Yugoslav frontier and coast made no impression upon anybody. Neither in Slovenia nor in the immediate neighbourhood of Zara was there any excitement. This must not at all be understood as though the Fiume question did not arouse universal interest and even indignation, but it is felt instinctively that this is no time for wars, that, morover, Yugoslavia's position is morally a very strong one, and that, in short, negotiations are bound to be resumed. Everybody knows that the Fiume question, which always means a reopening of the entire Adriatic question, is an international one, and that therefore neither Great Britain nor France would allow matters to come to a war.

Just now the position of the Fiume question is as follows: According to the Treaty of Rapallo—which has just been registered at the League of Nations—Fiume was to form an independent sovereign State, and Sushak, Barosh, and the Delta were to belong to Yugoslavia. But now not only Fiume, but Barosh and the Delta as well, are occupied by the Italians, and the Fascists, the present masters of Italy, threaten that they will never permit the evacuation of any of them. This is Italy's pretext for declaring that an evacuation of Barosh and the Delta is impossible. The price demanded by the Italian Government for executing the Treaty of Rapallo, in spite of threats of Fascist separate action, is that Yugoslavia should be prepared to give way—in other words, that she should consent to a revision of the Treaty and accept a binding clause to assure the re-establishment of the trade of Fiume. This would mean that the bulk of Yugoslavia's export and import trade would have to go through what would then be an Italian port.

That this is what Italy wants has been shown openly by the appointment of General Giardini as Governor of Fiume. Meantime M. Pashitch's letter to Signor Mussolini has once more made negotiations possible. All the same, it is only too true that the Fiume question bristles with difficulties, which hardly permit of a speedy solution, especially as regards this matter of sovereignty over Fiume. By the Treaty of Rapallo Fiume is a sovereign State, and for Yugoslavia to consent to her annexation would be in the first place a breach of the Treaty, and in the second it would be against the wish of the great majority of the Fiumans themselves.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LATE COLONEL AUBREY HERBERT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I would like to say that your appreciation of the late Lieutenant-Colonel Aubrey Herbert misses the fact that Colonel Herbert was emphatically a *strong* man, delighting in all sports where accuracy of vision is not essential.

I would not write at all, at this moment, of one whom I admire so much and grieve so deeply, were it not that your correspondent's sombre (and inaccurate) description of a great soul "imprisoned in a poor body" will give pain to Colonel Herbert's many friends wherever THE NEAR EAST circulates.

Aubrey Herbert was a tireless traveller, by sea and mountain and desert, having seen most countries of the world and been in many strange places. He was a daring rock climber. He could jump, climb, dive, swim, and shoot well. One small instance of his physical vigour is that he once ran some six miles along mountain paths in Italy before breakfast.

I will not, indeed I cannot, do justice to his beautiful character, nor to his great mental gifts; but perhaps the few facts I have enumerated above may serve to give a juster impression of one of the most joyous people who ever lived.—I am, etc.,

F. YEATS-BROWN.

The Yugoslav Government will shortly introduce into the Chamber a Bill limiting the number of Ministers to fourteen, instead of seventeen, for reasons of economy.

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Near East Bookshelf.

"THE TURKISH JESTER."

"TALES OF NASR-ED-DIN, KHOJA." Translated from the Turkish Text by Henry D. Barnham, C.M.G. (London: Nisbet and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

A book with as real an interest as this one can only appear rarely. In the first place there have not been many characters so full of both wit and ingenuousness, so cunning and yet so simple as Nasr-ed-Din, Khoja. Then it is refreshingly surprising to be taken back in so familiar and pleasant a manner to Turkey in the year 1410; to find oneself in the time of the tyrant Tamerlane, a name that suggests only melodramatic violence, and to be shown the life of the simple village-people jogging fairly placidly on its way. The sayings and doings of the Khoja have been traditional in Turkey all through the five hundred years which have passed since he lived, but a full collection of them has been published only within the last twenty years, since the accession to power of the Young Turks. Sir Valentine Chirol tells us in his Foreword that "they were tabooed by the Sultan Abdul Hamid, who scented danger to his Imperial authority in the Khoja's frequent jibes at those who in his day stood for authority, and especially for judicial authority." Surely the words of no other jester have remained powerful for so long as this.

The publication of this translation—the only English version, except the collection, "The Turkish Jester," privately circulated in 1884—has naturally attracted attention because of its historical interest and the singularity of its contents, but chiefly because of the Khoja himself. It is his personality that makes the book so well worth reading, both to those who know Turkey and its people and to those who merely like to feel themselves surprised into a chuckle sometimes and a smile sometimes, who like to be amused by something which seems obviously laughable and which is yet subtle enough to send them seeking for the exact cause of their amusement.

Quotation suggests itself as being the only way of conveying the flavour of the Khoja's wit, but rather unexpectedly these little tales get their effect much better taken all together than separated. Also, if we began to quote we should need at least one story to show the Khoja outwitting his neighbours or those in authority by tricks and cunning, and another to show him reproving some vice—usually that of greed—by apt illustration. And we should need yet others to show the wit of his repartee or his courage in standing up to Tamerlane, or the depths of his simplicity, or his very human attitude of disgust and bewilderment at finding himself in a fix. So we advise people to read the book for themselves, and to find how vividly the sense of a personality can survive the centuries and can be conveyed simply by means of anecdotes, even when they are translated into the language of a very different nation. Here is a characteristic story:—

"The Khoja heard that a wedding was going on at a certain house. When he thought that the guests would be just sitting down to breakfast, he took a sheet of paper, folded and put it into an envelope. He then knocked at the door, and when the servant asked him what he wanted said, 'A letter for the master of the house. Urgent.' The servant let him in, and, handing the letter to the gentleman, he sat down to table and began to eat. 'There is no address on the envelope,' said the host. 'Oh, never mind that,' said the Khoja. 'The man was in such a hurry that he hadn't even time to write anything inside.'"

A PERSIAN HOMER.

"THE SHAHNAMA OF FIRDAUSI." Done into English by Arthur George Warner and Edmond Warner. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

A tendency to render legends in rhythmic verse is innate in human nature, and epic poetry was the earliest form in which the primitive imagination found vocal utterance. Every civilised race cherishes an epic which described events, real or fictitious in its history. Persia was no exception to the rule. During the Sassanian era the exploits of many legendary heroes were sung in Pehlevi; and a compilation of these poems was made by the orders of King Yasdajird, who was hurled from his throne by the Moslem Arabs in 639 A.D. It fell into the hands of the Khalif Omar I., whose memory is unjustly associated with the destruction of the great Alexandrian library. He had a complete Arabic translation made of the Pehlevi original under the title "Sháhnáma," or Royal Annals. Three centuries afterwards this epic came into the possession of Mahnud, Sultan of Ghazni, whose court was a nest of singing birds. He ordered one of them, named Dakíkí, to render the compilation in Persian verse, and after the latter's tragic death his task was completed by a more illustrious poet named Firdausi (940-1020 A.D.).

The Sháhnáma consisted of 60,000 couplets, of which about 90 per cent. have been preserved. Unlike most epics, which relate the exploits of an heroic personage, the Sháhnáma is a metrical history of the Persian race, and has done more than aught besides to keep the national spirit from sinking under centuries of oppression. Lord Macaulay expressed a doubt whether any modern had been persevering enough to be "in at the death of Spenser's Blatant Beast," and the inordinate length of the Sháhnáma renders it a sealed book for Western students. "Still green with bays each ancient altár stands"; Homer, Virgil, Dante, and Milton have countless admirers, but no modern poet has attempted to indite an epic.

Messrs. Warner deserve great credit for accomplishing the onerous task of introducing the Sháhnáma to English readers. The eighth volume of their translation deals with the reign of Khusru Parvíz (596-628)—a mighty Sassanian monarch who deprived Rome of her Asiatic possessions, and advanced with an invading army to the gates of Constantinople.

Messrs. Warren have employed the metre from which Milton obtained such marvellous effects. Although their version never reaches the majestic music of "Paradise Lost," it reproduces the spirit of the original. F. H. S.

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The "Blue Peter" is published monthly at its Offices, 12, St. Mary Axe, E.C.3.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 11 (New Style).
September 28 (Old Style).
Saphar 29, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Cheshvan 1, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan has arrived from Paris at the Ritz Hotel.

Mr. Howard Carter left London on October 3 for Egypt to resume the work at the tomb of Tutankhamen.

Almina Countess of Carnarvon has arrived in London from Glenborrodale, where she has been spending the early autumn.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, the Roumanian Minister at Washington, is sailing for England, according to present arrangements, this week.

The Roumanian Minister and Madame Titulesco have arrived in Paris from Geneva. They will not return to London until the middle of the month.

M. Marcu Beza, Consul and Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London last Friday for Bucharest. He was accompanied by Madame Beza.

A public lecture is being delivered to-day (October 11), at 5.30, at King's College, by Professor Arnold Toynbee, on "Outlines of Modern Greek History."

Dr. T. G. Pinches is to deliver a public lecture to-day (October 11) at University College, 5.15 p.m., on "The New Babylonian Creation and Flood Stories."

The Hon. Mrs. Millington-Drake left London on October 7 for Roumania to join her husband, Mr. John H. E. V. Millington-Drake, at the British Legation, Bucharest.

A marriage has been arranged between Earl Winterton, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, and the Hon. Monica Wilson, only daughter of Lord and Lady Nunburnholme.

Dr. H. R. Hall, F.S.A., read a paper entitled "Recent Excavations in Babylonia and their Bearing on History," with lantern illustrations, on October 9, before the Royal Asiatic Society.

Mr. C. F. J. Galloway will lecture on "Journeys in North-West Persia," illustrated by lantern slides, before the Persia Society, 74, Grosvenor Street, W.1, next Monday (October 15), at 5.30 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Merton left England this week for Switzerland. We are pleased to be able to state that Mr. Merton has completely recovered from his recent illness, and hopes to be back in Egypt early in November.

Sir Edward Manville, M.P., and Lady Manville gave a farewell dinner last Thursday evening at Claridge's Hotel to Sir Ragendra and Lady Mookerjee on their departure for India. Those present included Viscount Peel, Secretary of State for India, and Sir Malcolm Seton, Under-Secretary of State, India Office.

General Sir George F. Milne took the chair at the lecture given at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, yesterday, by Lieutenant-Colonel H. M. Farmer, Lancashire Fusiliers, on "The Gallipoli Campaign, 1915, from the Regimental Officer's Point of View."

An engagement is announced, and a marriage will shortly take place, between Mr. Brudenell, of Deene, eldest surviving son of the late Lord and Lady Robert Brudenell-Bruce, and Mary Julia (Tommie), eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Schilizzi, of Guilsborough Court, Northamptonshire, and granddaughter of Sir Lucas and Lady Ralli.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

Viscount Peel, Secretary for India, has appointed Mr. J. G. Laithwaite, of the India Office, to be his assistant private secretary, vice Mr. R. T. Peel, M.C.

Earl Winterton, M.P., Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, has appointed Mr. R. T. Peel to be his private secretary. Viscount Ednam, M.P., will continue to act as Parliamentary private secretary to Lord Winterton.

Viscount Peel (Secretary of State for India) has appointed the following to be Assistant Executive Engineers in the Public Works and State Railway Departments of the Indian Government:—J. A. E. Hector, T. W. Kneale, A. Finlayson, R. C. Flux, E. L. Slight, C. J. Rae, S. Majidullah, H. V. Chapman, H. P. Mathrani, A. G. Giles, S. F. Bett.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1923.

BRITAIN AND THE NEAR EAST.

If the lack of a definite British policy in regard to the Ruhr and German reparations is being felt by the public in Great Britain to-day, there can be little doubt that the need for a definite policy in regard to the Near East is, from the point of view of the permanent peace and welfare of Europe, hardly less urgent. Fortunately the formulation of a Near Eastern policy is a comparatively simple matter, as it clashes with no vested interests, encroaches upon no close preserves, and entails no disturbance of the *status quo*. All that is necessary is that Great Britain should make it clear that she has abandoned the opportunism and habit of *laissez-faire* which have characterised her attitude towards Near Eastern affairs during the last decade, and that she takes up once more her traditional rôle of friend and protector of small nations. In such a declaration there would be no challenge to any other Power; it would be made exclusively to the peoples of the Near East, to reassure them at a critical stage in their history, and as a practical contribution to their task of reconstruction. If Great Britain, as General Smuts holds, is capable of putting forward a concrete scheme of settlement for Western Europe, and of putting it forward "with a voice that will be listened to in the affairs of the world," she is surely able to inspire confidence in her intentions among the Near Eastern States without bringing a day nearer the mobilisation of her Navy and Army. The aim in view is essentially the maintenance of peace, and that not by advertising Britain's readiness for war, but by affording to countries that are more inclined to be anxious about their own territorial security the friendship and co-operation of which they stand in need to enable them to devote all their energies to peaceful development.

With the exception of Yugoslavia, before whom still looms the problem of Fiume, all the countries of the Near East are for the moment rid of foreign complications, and are engrossed in domestic matters. For one and all it is a time of severe testing. In no single instance are conditions at home satisfactory, and it is essential that each State should have a long spell of freedom from external preoccupations, in order to apply the genius of the nation to the settlement of its internal affairs. The work of reconstruction, however, is bound to be interrupted by alarms from without, unless a sense of security can be inspired from one quarter or another, and a restraining hand can be brought to bear upon the temptation for any one of them to take advantage of a neighbour's difficulties. Great Britain is the only Power that can adequately play the part. The protection of small nations has long been her *métier*, and although she may be credited with Imperialist designs in other parts of the world, the charge in regard to the Balkans has never seriously been brought against her. Of recent years, it is true, an attempt has been made to poison the minds of these countries by allegations that Britain's policy is wholly selfish, and that she is, therefore, not to be trusted. Against any foundation that there may be for this charge in the vacillating and uninformed policy pursued by former Governments we may set the fact that no other Power has been successful in establishing a reputation for undeviating altruism. On its past record in regard to the Balkans no Power has much to be proud of; but the moment has arrived when Great Britain can claim, as no other Power can, that friendship with her commits the country concerned to no policy of adventure, but is at once a guarantee of protection from outside aggression, and an encouragement to peaceful development. For there is no need for British policy in the Near East to represent a unilateral undertaking. Great Britain's support and protection, it should be made clear, can be had for the asking, but they carry with them an obligation on the part of the States claiming them to conform to a settled policy of peace among themselves, and to devote their efforts wholeheartedly to the promotion of their own material prosperity.

We are convinced that British interest in the Near East will be reciprocated a hundredfold. At present, in a variety of different ways, the Balkan States are made to feel, from a diplomatic point of view, their pettiness in the world scheme of things. In their relations with the British Empire more than with any other Great Power they appear to have their relative unimportance brought home to them. The cultivation of a sense of proportion is invariably sound; its inculcation is rarely politic. For these States friendship with a Great Power has been regarded mainly from the point of view of the opportunity it afforded for scoring off a neighbour, with the result that this latter has been the be-all and end-all of Balkan policy. Great Britain has a higher mission to fulfil. She can bring home to the several States concerned the fact that, while disunited and antagonistic, they occupy individually an insignificant place both in the political world and in the world of culture, as a group, with a joint population of over forty million, they become a vital factor in Europe, politically and in the economic sphere. To this end a different orientation is needed from that which brought about the Little Entente. That body is frankly based on a military convention. A Balkan League could become effective as an instrument in the peaceful development of Europe without any military pact, particularly if it were linked by some understanding with Great Britain. It is not suggested that the goal in view can be reached in a single stride. The first step should be the formulating of a definite policy in regard to the Near East on the part of Great Britain. It is for the Government to decide whether the handling of Foreign Affairs has become too wide a task for a single Secretary of State, and whether the time has not come for a second Secretary of State charged with the affairs of the Minor Powers. Such an arrangement would remove the anomaly of the representatives of the latter being rarely able to have access to the Foreign Secretary, whose burden since the Armistice has been too great for one pair of shoulders.

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A TRAGEDY IN STONE.

(Continued.)

By THEO MOGHABGHAB.

The second disaster, which is associated with the Turkish conquest and which extinguished Cyprus as a European country, befell thus:—The Turks had long had their eye on Cyprus, "the key of the kingdom of Venice"—for the island had now become Venetian—but they had treaties with Venice and could find no suitable pretext to attack it. It remained for Sultan Selim the Sot to waive aside any considerations of honour.

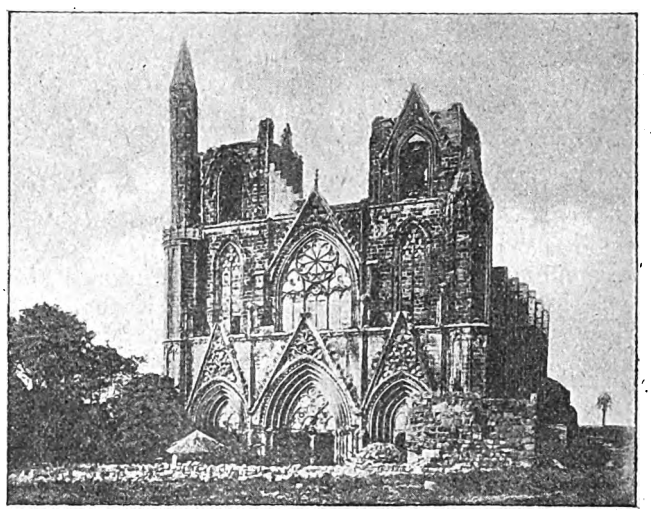
Among the several reasons advanced for Selim's action is one that he yearned to add Cyprus to his dominions because he was told that the cellars of the Famagusta Cathedral were stored with the finest wine of that island. One wonders whether he thought that once Cyprus was his he could wallow ever after in bibulous ecstasy!

In spite of mixed counsels at Constantinople and strenuous opposition on the part of the Grand Vizier, a mighty fleet was set in motion and what was then a huge force landed in Cyprus and laid siege to its towns and fortresses. Nicosia, its capital and one of the premier sees of the Papacy, fell after a brief defence, and forty thousand of her inhabitants were slain and fifteen thousand carried off in chains. Famagusta with her small garrison of 8,000 put up a desperate defence, and succumbed only through heartrending scenes of hunger. She had, moreover, to combat with heavier odds than any other town of Cyprus. The news of the priceless loot the invaders had got at Nicosia, where all the treasures of the island had been stored at the outbreak of the war, was noised abroad, and thereupon a stream of adventurers—said to exceed sixty thousand—flocked from all parts of the Turkish dominions towards the doomed city and augmented the besieging forces to 200,000. (200,000 against 8,000.)

Famagusta fell, but at what a price! Besides the harvest that death had reaped in the heroic town, the conqueror left 80,000 to enrich the soil of Cyprus. Though the city had surrendered on honourable terms Mustapha Pasha, the Turkish Generalissimo, broke his faith, and had the handful of survivors massacred or thrown into chains. But the worst fate awaited the brave captain of the fortress, Marcantonio Braggadino. According to contemporary historians he was obliged to witness the murders of his chief officers "and many times to endure the pangs of death before he was released from life." For twice and thrice did Mustapha make Braggadino, "who showed no sign of fear, stretch out his neck as though he would strike off his head, but spared his life and cut off his ears and nose, and as he lay on the ground Mustapha reviled him, cursing our Lord and saying: 'Where now is thy Christ that He doth not help you?' The general made never an answer, but with lofty patience awaited the end."

Twelve days after, on a Friday, Braggadino was led, "full of wounds which had received no care, into the presence of Mustapha, on the batteries built against the city, and for all his weakness was made to carry one basketful of earth up and another down, on each redoubt, and forced to kiss the ground when he passed Mustapha. Then he was led to the shore, set in a slung seat and a crown at his feet, and hoisted on the yard of the Captain of Rhodes, hung like a stork, in view of all the Christian soldiers on the port. Then the noble gentleman was led to the square, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and before a great crowd they stripped him and made him sit amid every insult on the grating of the pillory. Then they stretched him on the ground and brutally flayed him alive." With an incredible courage this amazing man "bore all with great firmness . . . never losing heart, but ever with the sternest constancy reproaching them for their broken faith: with never a sign of wavering he commended himself to his Saviour, and when the steel reached his navel he gave up his . . . spirit to his maker."

The martyr's skin was then stuffed with straw and paraded in the streets on a cow, while the red umbrella under which the living Braggadino had ridden out to hand the keys in state was held over him in mockery. Finally it was sent to Constantinople as a trophy. On its way the gruesome object was hung on a ship's yard and paraded round the Turkish littoral as a spectacle.



FAMAGUSTA CATHEDRAL.

To this day the real motive of Mustapha's awful act remains a mystery. The fury of his anger was not yet exhausted, but raged also against the dead. He entered the cathedral, caused the graves to be opened, amongst them those of the Bastard Jaques, the last Crusading king, and his son, and the bones to be scattered. "He then destroyed the altar and the images of the saints," says a chronicler, "and committed other bestial and cruel acts for which he was blamed even by his own people."

Thus by a grim irony of fate the tragedy that had started two centuries earlier, with that momentous Coronation procession, from the portals of this church, and then shifted its bloody trail to Southern Europe, now returned to the Isle to finish at the feet of the very same fane. In drama the Italian domination was ushered in: in drama was it ushered out. By the same freak of destiny was it ordained that the bones of the last

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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—and the least worthy of the Lusignan kings—should be scattered to the elements by the hand of the very same people against whom his House had been raised by Christendom, four centuries before, as symbols and protagonists of the Crusades.

At last Sultan Selim the Sot got his wine! A bottle of the delectable nectar, so renowned in his day, followed him everywhere, "upstairs and downstairs and in my lady's chamber." One day while in his marble bath, he took a sip and there was a slip: there remained but a broken head and a broken bottle to tell the tale, and within eleven days there was a Sultanic funeral. And thus it came to pass that the wine that had caused the annihilation of a famous country and the loss of myriads of lives, Christian and Moslem, rebounded on the author of such misery.

But Nemesis had not had her fill yet. More bloodshed, more misery and more hate between man and man were still in store. Venice lost her premier colony, but she thirsted for revenge, and did not rest until she had engineered a league of the Catholic powers of Europe. The sequel was Lepanto, the greatest naval battle of history, which gave the deathblow to Ottoman maritime power, from which it never recovered. "Remember Braggadino" was the battle cry as Prince John of Spain, the youthful commander-in-chief of the allied fleets, started operations by dancing "la gagliarda" in sight of the whole host. And Braggadino was avenged. It cost the Turks 80,000 men, including their Admiralissimo, a fine and totally different character from the terrible Mustapha, 10,000 prisoners and nearly 200 vessels of war. The Turks had sown the wind, but reaped the whirlwind.

Even Mustapha, who had schemed so zealously for the conquest of Cyprus, felt its blast. Such was the aversion and silence shown him by the inhabitants of the Turkish capital which grieved at the loss of their armada and relatives, that "between disgust and fear he saw at every moment death imminent."

It is true that in spite of the European victory, Cyprus remained in the hands of the invaders, but they found it of snowier hue than the fabled white elephant. What vestige of commerce and prosperity had survived the selfish iron administration of Venice, flew by the backdoor when they stepped on Cyprian soil, and neither the Sultan nor the Sultan's men could put the twain back again!

The promoters of the expedition had forgotten that the importance of Cyprus was due to its peculiar relationship to Europe, and that once that connection was severed its life would cease.

In an amazingly short while the famous island kingdom, which had played such a rôle in the affairs of mankind, whose affluence was the by-word of Europe, so that noble youths sought the hands of her daughters in order to retrieve their lost fortunes, whose luxury could move a Dante to anger, was lost in the waters of oblivion. And Famagusta, whose merchant princes could dower their daughters with more jewels than the Queen of France ever possessed—Famagusta, the scene of Shakespeare's "Othello" and of Ford's "Love's Melancholy"—Famagusta, which had stood out as the last bulwark of Western Christianity and civilisation in the East, became a prison of Ottoman exiles.

So forgotten did Cyprus come to be that even now countless amusing stories are told of the ignorance of the majority of Europeans regarding its place on the map. An ingenious resident has even had a tiny map of the Eastern Mediterranean, showing the whereabouts of the island, printed on the top of his notepaper!

Administratively, the Turks found the island a pretty handful until they were content to farm out its revenues to the local Greek Clergy and notables. In other words, for all their sacrifices, they only won Dead Sea fruit. And thus it was misery and turmoil all round, and no one the better for it. In the enshrouding gloom two specks of light glimmer:—The Turks—be it recorded to their credit—restored to the church of the land its self-respect and did away with serfdom.

Another cause for the Turkish invasion is ascribed to the machinations of a renegade Portuguese Jew, the bosom friend and adviser of the Sultan, who bore a grudge against the Venetian Republic for a fancied wrong. It was he, it is said, who baited the Sultan's desires by glowing descriptions of the cellared wine. If so, this shows once again that it is not the first time that the sons of Israel, besides giving us finance and ethical religion, have proved no negligible quantity in the realm of politics.

But be this true or not, or whether the real cause was that the island had become a refuge for Maltese corsairs, who continually harassed Turkish commerce and particularly the pilgrim trade, the story of the Church cellars, filled with wine set aside for priestly lips, and of the bibulous Sultan, appeals to the imagination for its terrific sense of poetic justice.

Cyprus is rich in myths and traditions, entwined with the inevitable popular fallacies, and the cathedral of Famagusta comes in for its share thereof. Legend has it that its architect was the pupil of the designer of Nicosia cathedral, but that his work surpassed that of his master. The latter came down specially to see with his own eyes whether what he had heard was true. His chagrin was indescribable.

"Well, how do you find it?" asked the pupil with justifiable pride. "Am I a worthy pupil?"

"It lacks naught," replied the other, hiding his mortification, "if not for a stone underneath yonder tower, which mars its beauty: it is not in alignment."

The pupil strained his eyes, but failed to perceive any defective stone.

"Let us hie us to the top," at length suggested the wicked master mason. "It would be easier to point it out to you from there."

The pupil accordingly led the way to the dizzy heights of the tower. Once there, the master peered over the parapet and pointed at one of the corbels below.

"But I see naught," said the pupil anxiously.

"If you lean a little forward you will behold it."

The younger man stooped down as far as he durst go, but still he could perceive nothing amiss.

"A little lower yet, a little lower yet," insisted the elder one.

As the unsuspecting man bent forward until he was at a perilous angle, the master gave him a push from behind, and down he came headlong and was dashed to pieces on the ground below.

This legend recalls to mind an almost similar one regarding the Rosslyn Chapel and its Prentice Pillar, in Scotland, but, if I remember rightly, there the jealous master gets rid of his pupil, the creator of that beautiful edifice, with a hammer. What gives the lie to the local story is the fact that Nicosia Cathedral was built about a century earlier than that of Famagusta. And yet who can say that there is no real foundation to the legend and that the master-mason was not the architect of the magnificent Cathedral porch at Nicosia, which is an addition and of the same style and period as that of Famagusta Cathedral?

Could it be that the Rosslyn and Famagusta myths have a common source? In both cases the

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architectural style is an importation and is believed to be either of Iberian or Champenois origin. In the Middle Ages the itinerant bands of architects were responsible for many a magnificent pile, and it would not be impossible that members of the same guild were the designers, though at different periods, of all the churches concerned. A tragic event of this nature would leave interesting legends in the guilds, who would pass them on to the inhabitants of the countries which they are wont to visit. Or it may be that both are variations of the Hiram story.

Another popular tradition has it that the Royal residence on the opposite side of the town square was connected with the cathedral by an elevated way which enabled the king to make his entry to the church unobserved by vulgar eyes. The twin granite columns standing in the church enclosure and only a few yards from the great doors, are indicated as remnants of a series of columns that supported this private passage; but as these monuments were erected by the Venetian Republic—that is after Famagusta had ceased to know a king—the legend can be dismissed. These columns were used for supporting the insignia of the Republic and as pillory stones, and it was between them that Braggadino bore his martyrdom with such lofty heroism.

Strange how the popular memory has clean forgotten so stupendous a tragedy as the death of Braggadino and yet cling to older and vaguer traces of a king! But the glamour of Kingship has always appealed to the popular imagination.

Now there did exist a secret passage between the palace and the adjacent Franciscan Church, which was used by one of the kings as a private chapel, and at Nicosia the king is said to have had a private door which opened on to an overhead passage leading to his tribune—the same as that which was prepared in recent times for the intended but never realised visit of Sultan Abdul-Mejid. Hence, the facts that have drifted up from the depths of popular memory may be correct, but they are hopelessly involved as regards sequence and geography.

A third curious legend, which strengthens the assumption that the present minaret was not the original one, avers that there were spires then on the western towers, and, in order that the minaret should tower above them and yet stand on available foundations, the proportions had to be very slight. "It fell down as soon as completed. It was rebuilt and again fell. This happened three times, and the Christians say on account of the desecration of turning a Christian church into a mosque. The minaret was then built lower than the spires, and has since stood, while the latter have crumbled away with time."

An old writer quotes the following quaint legend regarding the hosts of locusts that ravaged—and still ravage from time to time—the island. The only remedy was a water from a certain fountain in Persia (presumably petroleum), which attracted a kind of bird that destroyed the pest, but if the water was spilled or spoiled these birds disappear, "which accident fell out when the Turks took Cyprus, for one of them going up into the steeple of the cathedral church at Famagusta and finding there a pitcher of this water, he, fancying it contained some precious thing, broke it and spilled the water. Since then the Cypriots have always been tormented by the locusts."

In 1735 a severe earthquake brought down the middle part of the edifice, probably the portion rebuilt by the Turks after the bombardment of 1571, killing over two-hundred Moslems engaged in prayer.

(To be concluded.)

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Turkey and the C.U.P.

Under the heading "After Lausanne," Mr. Eric R. Whittall contributes to the *National Review* of September an article dealing with the internal politics of Turkey. He shows how, as soon as the National Pact approached realisation, divisions inside Turkey began to make themselves felt. Especially was Angora jealous of Constantinople and of the C.U.P. Up to the present the C.U.P. has behaved wisely, but it is a force with which Mustapha Kemal must inevitably reckon, and Mr. Whittall's conclusion is:—

> Now that peace has been signed and the new National Assembly has met, one of two things is bound to happen. Either Mustapha Kemal will agree to join forces with the ex-leaders of the Committee of Union and Progress, or he will refuse and fight. If a coalition is formed, the country will undoubtedly benefit. The newcomers will introduce into the Government a leavening influence which will be on the side of moderation and conservatism. Moreover, the administration will improve, for, in Turkey, one political leader carries in his wake many civil servants who are employed in the administration or not, according to the entrances and exits of their patron on the political stage. Finally, those men, through long contact with Europe, through stress of failure and privation, through bitter experience and the realisation of past errors, will probably be in a position to further the country's interests by grappling with the problems and difficulties that loom so large before everyone in Turkey. On the other hand, if Mustapha Kemal rejects their overtures, we shall probably witness, sooner or later, if not an actual physical struggle, at least a trial of strength which, however it results, will not improve the credit of the present holders of power, but will more probably leave behind it a rankling hatred, and deprive the country of many useful elements on both sides.

The Greek Situation.

In the *Empire Review* for September a writer calling himself "Philhellene" takes up the view that, owing to "the extreme unpopularity of the revolutionary régime" dramatic developments may be in store for Greece. The revolutionary leaders, he says, have decided to "cook" the forthcoming elections, but even so it is doubtful whether their effort will prove successful:—

> Nevertheless, it is tolerably clear that so long as the State machinery remains in the hands of the revolutionary junta, and the latter's attitude continues thus to clash with the right and the will of the Greek people freely to decide their own destinies, the possibility of further violent upheavals cannot be excluded. Until the revolutionary régime has been got out of the way and constitutional conditions are re-established in Greece, there can be no guarantee whatever for stability and tranquillity in that unhappy country.

But that "the Greek people will at no very distant date shake themselves free of the revolutionary

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incubus, at whatever cost" he has no doubt at all. Finally, he claims that Britain and France are not without responsibility in the matter, and should exert their influence to smoothe the course of Greek affairs. For—

> The present bloody-handed rulers of Greece are the creatures of M. Venizelos, whose political fortunes have essentially thriven—the fact cannot be burked—on British and French support. The September revolution itself would never have occurred but for the hostile attitude of the two Powers towards the régime of King Constantine, which, at any rate, was one of undoubted legality, the only régime since 1917 under which martial law was not a regular instrument of governance. Can it honestly be denied that by their patronage of M. Venizelos France and Britain have in effect, whatever their intention, steadily loaded the dice in favour of a minority in Greece? The outcome for Greece has been tragic and humiliating. Are Britain and France morally entitled to ask to-day, what is Greece to them and they to Greece? By exerting their influence *to secure fair play* they will do much to obliterate from the mind of the Greek people the bitter memory of their constant and disastrous meddling in Greek politics during the last eight years.

Bulgaria.

The *Contemporary Review* of September contains an article by J. Walter Collins on "The Bulgarian Coup and Afterwards." Having traced the downfall of M. Stambolisky and the consequent changes in attitude of her neighbours to Bulgaria, Mr. Collins thus discusses the present Bulgarian Government:—

> The writer is not of the opinion that the present Military Party in Bulgaria is a menace to Balkan peace. The actual internal situation necessitates a strong and firm hand. The Military, and the Military alone, can supply this hand. There are, nevertheless, two real dangers which, although not immediate, are bound to crop up sooner or later. It has already been shown that the Macedonians are bent on obtaining autonomy. Sofia has declared that it will adopt a neutral attitude towards the would-be Autonomists. As has been said before, Sofia may, and probably will, remain true to its declaration. But this will not prevent a great deal of indirect support reaching the Macedonians from Bulgaria. The Serbians, in their present mood, are sure to take exception to this, and it is to be feared that serious complications may as a result ensue. In the Balkans, as elsewhere, frontiers are usually a source of trouble, and a recrudescence of *komitadjis* excesses is to be expected. These excesses will probably begin after the harvest—that is to say, in the autumn.
>
> The other danger spot is Western Thrace. . . . In theory, Bulgaria's policy in this direction is bound to be a *rapprochement* with either Turkey or Greece.

Articles to Note.

"Italy and Greece," by Dr. William Miller, in the *Contemporary Review* (October).

"Corfu," by the Rev. V. Worsley Boden; and "Cruising on the Coast of Greece," by Commander Lord Teignmouth, R.N., in the *Nineteenth Century* (October).

"The Failure of the Lausanne Conference," by James Stuart, in the *Fortnightly Review* (October).

The assassination, near Loralai, in Baluchistan, is reported of Captain Lionel Baker Jones, of the Indian Medical Service.

OBITUARY.

Sir Mysore Kantharaj Urs, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., brother-in-law of the Maharaja of Mysore, and late Dewan of the State, died at Bangalore on October 3. He was born on September 20, 1870, being a son of Narasaraj Urs, who was closely connected with the reigning family. From 1913 to near the end of the war he was a member of the Executive Council.

The death is announced from France of Damad Ferid Pasha, brother-in-law of the last four Sultans of Turkey, and several times Grand Vizier. For a man so essentially unpolitical, he was immersed in politics to an amazing degree. Generally he seemed to back the losing horse: after the Armistice, for instance, he was consistently opposed both to the Nationalists and the C.U.P. His policy of overthrowing Mustapha Kemal and restoring the authority of the Sultan was very conspicuously unsuccessful.

We regret to have to record the death in Rome, at the age of eighty-six, of Mr. Oscar Browning, author and historian, the "O.B." of many generations of Cambridge men. His vivid personality was the source of countless legends both at Eton and Cambridge, and his unbrookable originality often disturbed the even tenor of life at those places. About eight years ago he moved to Rome, where he pursued unflaggingly his habit of writing. THE NEAR EAST loses in him a good friend and warm supporter. On a recent occasion, when renewing his subscription, he wrote:—"I am delighted to send you a subscription for the year, because I think that THE NEAR EAST is the best English paper that I have ever seen, bar none: admirably written, full of interesting and correct information."

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Imperial Economic Conference.

So far the Imperial Economic Conference has merely been occupied with the essential preliminaries. The real business has yet to be transacted. But if the opening sessions have been in the nature of inaugural meetings they have been none the less interesting on that account. The problems with which this country is confronted have been worn threadbare with discussion in the last couple of years, but we have not grown weary of them on that account (they have not permitted us that luxury), and Sir Philip Lloyd-Graeme, President of the Board of Trade, in his address at the commencement of the Conference, gave an extremely succinct survey of the position. He emphasised what I have laid stress on over and over again, that in the most favourable circumstances the recovery of Europe is going to be a slow process, and that the development of new markets is a vital matter for this country. That these markets must in the main be found within the British Empire goes without saying. In this connection Sir. Philip most happily pointed out that in the years of depression following the Franco-Prussian War it was the fact that our exports within the Empire almost doubled that enabled us to pull through. We must hope (and, may it be said, there is every ground for optimism) that the parallel will hold good to-day.

Furthering Development.

There are very many ways in which this goal can be achieved. I indicated one of them in these columns last week—concentration on cotton production—and it is of interest to note that Sir Philip gave this as a concrete example of the value of a policy of speeding up development. He pointed out that the supply of sufficient quantities of raw cotton at a reasonable price is one of the most pressing problems for the great Lancashire industry. "There are great tracts of territory within the British Dominions capable of producing cotton of the quality we need," he said; "but if these territories are to be developed rapidly and on an adequate scale, large capital expenditure is necessary on transport and irrigation. The more rapid the development, the better. As quickly as the cotton can be grown and transported it will be absorbed, and the territories so developed become sellers of a commodity we here badly need, and increasing purchasers of goods within the Empire." I make no apology for quoting his remarks *in extenso*, for there is no question that the development of cotton-growing in the Empire is one of the outstanding problems of the day, and it is impossible to give it too much attention.

Cotton Growing in the Sudan.

By a curious and most happy coincidence, on the same day Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, was reviewing the progress of cotton-growing in that territory, in a speech at Manchester, a report of which will be found elsewhere in these columns. He had nothing to say that was not satisfactory. The canalisation in connection with the Gezireh scheme is progressing favourably, and he hopes that the deep channel across the Blue Nile will be completed by the next rise of the river, in which case it is anticipated that water will be on the land by July, 1925. Work on the Kassala Railway has been commenced, and it is expected that the construction of the line will go forward at the rate of at least one mile per day. With regard to the output of cotton, General Stack was very encouraging. Leaving out of the account the two large schemes, he stated that the output next year will be double that of last year, and that when the schemes did come into operation, the output would be three or four times what it would be next year. Colonel Schuster, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, who also spoke, said that he looked for a million bales yearly from the Sudan within fifteen years, and, as he very aptly pointed out, this would not only relieve Lancashire's shortage of supply, but would mean the development of a vast new market for the consumption of British manufactures, and a lessening of the burden of our debt to America, for, of course, it would mean a great decrease in our purchases of cotton from that country. Were no other consequence entailed, it would be worth putting forth every effort to bring about the latter result alone.

The Question of Imperial Preference.

To revert to the Conference, it was inevitable that the question of Imperial Preference should be dealt with by Sir Philip, but his references to it were very guarded, which is not surprising, for it is quite the most difficult problem before the Conference. I do not think that anyone doubts that some measure of it must come (as a matter of fact we have it already in a limited degree), but there are very obvious difficulties in the way of the full-blooded tariff that would satisfy the Dominions. They have not an electorate to deal with that has

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been nurtured from childhood on the doctrine of free trade. But in the post-war world the old shibboleths have no place, and it is rather now a question of fair trade than free. Look where one will one finds tariffs and restrictions, which operate to the disadvantage of British trade, and the system of Preference that is aimed at is not designed as a weapon against rivals, but merely for the encouragement of mutual trade between countries united under the same flag. Between that and the state of things that exists in Europe is a very wide difference. An outstanding example is provided in the case of some of the Near Eastern countries where the system of trade barriers and other restrictions has been carried to impossible lengths. It is not surprising in the circumstances that recovery from the effects of the war should be such a difficult matter.

The Indian Market.

The principal speech in reply to Sir Philip was made by Mr. C. A. Innes, who discussed in some detail the Indian trade position, pointing out, *inter alia*, that last year only 22 per cent. of India's exports went to the United Kingdom. He commented on the difficulties India has had to face since the War, and described the measures that have been taken to meet the position. "Things are undoubtedly better than they were," he said. "There seems every prospect of good crops for the second year in succession, and that is a matter of the first importance to the peace and prosperity of India. . . . What we want now to set our finances right is a real revival of trade." He went on to refer to the development of Indian industries, and to the policy of discriminating protection that has been adopted, in which connection he laid stress on the point that there is no reason for apprehension on the part of those who trade with India on that account, since if only the standard of living of India's millions can be raised and their capacity to consume goods increased, "India's potentialities as a factor in international trade and as a market are almost limitless." While that is not open to question, it is equally obvious that the industrialisation of India must entail considerable alterations in the nature of our commerce, so that it is difficult to see how it can be maintained that there are no grounds for apprehension. By the time India's trade has reached the normal it is to be presumed that world commerce will be in the same state if it is ever to be so, and it is to the immediate future that British traders are naturally looking, and anything that tends to increase the dislocation of trade must naturally be the cause of anxiety.

Roumanian Shipping Enterprise.

The announcement of the services of the Roumanian State Maritime Service from Constantza to the Piræus and from Constantza to Alexandria, which will be found on another page, will be hailed as a welcome indication that conditions in that part of the Near East are gradually moving towards the normal. It takes time to build up shipping services literally *de novo*, and that is what the Roumanian State Maritime Service has had to do. For some considerable period the line has been running what may be called a skeleton service over the routes it serves, but the reappearance on our pages of its advertisement suggests that it is once again in a position to provide the excellent facilities that it gave before the war.

COMMENTATOR.

NICKEL ORES.

A new volume on nickel ores, in the series of monographs on mineral resources, with special reference to the British Empire, issued under the direction of the Mineral Resources Committee of the Imperial Institute, has just been published by Mr. John Murray (price 5s.). It is written by Mr. W. G. Rumbold, Scientific and Technical Department, Imperial Institute.

Although nickel was discovered 172 years ago, it was only sparingly used until the last quarter of the nineteenth century, during which period the New Caledonian (1874) and Sudbury (1885) deposits were first mined. The metal is largely used in the production of nickel steel, either alone or with other metals. It also forms useful alloys with copper, manganese and chromium, with copper and zinc ("nickel-silver"), and with copper and aluminium. It is also used in electroplating; in coinage; in the manufacture of certain small articles; as an anode in storage batteries; in wire, sheet and gauze form for certain appliances; as a catalyst, and as oxide in the manufacture of glass. The world's production of nickel (metal) in the years immediately preceding the great war averaged about 30,000 tons per annum. During the war period it rose to upwards of 40,000 tons. There has been a considerable drop in production since 1918, and a gradual drop in price since 1920.

The first chapter of the monograph deals briefly with nickel minerals; the mining, concentration and reduction of the same; and the properties, uses, prices, and world's production of the metal. In the second chapter the deposits of the British Empire are described, the principal being Sudbury and Cobalt, Ontario. Other occurrences described are those of Manitoba and Quebec, New South Wales, Tasmania, New Zealand, Cape Province and Transvaal. The third and last chapter describes the nickel deposits of foreign countries; principally those of New Caledonia, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden and United States. Minor occurrences described are in Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Italy, Russia, Spain, Dutch East Indies, Japan, Egypt, Madagascar, Cuba, Mexico, Porto Rico, Brazil, Chile and Peru. A map shows the chief nickel occurrences in the world, and the volume concludes with a list of publications on nickel.

LETTERS FOR PERSIA VIA RUSSIA.

The Postmaster-General announces that correspondence for Persia is now accepted for transmission via Russia. Correspondence intended for transmission by that route must be specially marked by the senders. Registered articles are accepted at sender's risk. The mails will be dispatched from London daily. Correspondence for Northern Persia via Russia should occupy about two or three weeks in transit as compared with five to seven weeks by the sea route via Bombay.

The Chamber of Shipping is to entertain the Imperial Delegates at dinner at the Hotel Victoria, Northumberland Avenue, on October 30.

The Steaua Romana (British) Company is advised that the approximate field's gross production for the month of September was 18,039 tons.

The Government of the Lebanon has appointed a Commission to report upon the possibility of building a standard gauge coastal railway from Beyrout to Tripolis, to link up Beyrout with the Syrian, Baghdad, and Anatolian systems.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

A Dock Caisson for Egypt.

The various parts of a reversible steel floating caisson, constructed to the order of the Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Co., Ltd., by Messrs. Francis Morton and Co., Ltd., Hamilton Ironworks, Garston, have now been shipped to Egypt. The caisson was put together at the works of Messrs. Morton, and was inspected and then taken to pieces for shipment. The process of erection in Egypt is to be begun at Ansari, where the launching will take place of the lower portion, which will be floated thence to the Suez Dry Dock, where the remaining part of the structure will be added.

A brief description of the caisson may be of interest to my readers. It is of the double-faced reversible type, 93 ft. 6 in. long, 11 ft. 8 in. broad, and 34 ft. 6 in. deep, and its total weight is about 200 tons. Two watertight decks divide it into upper and lower water chambers, communication from one to the other being obtained by means of plated waterways, which pass through the air chamber and can be made to connect with the outer water by 10 in. diameter flood valves below the air chamber. These valves are in duplicate in order to enable the caisson to be reversed. A scuttle tank is provided amidships for sinking the caisson into position, and there is a double-acting hand pump of 6 in. diameter for discharging water from the scuttle tank into the top central water chambers, capable of transferring 3,000 gallons per hour when worked at the rate of forty strokes per minute. The end chamber valves and the four flooding valves are kept shut when the caisson is closing the entrance to the dry dock, high water thus being retained within the caisson as a precaution against its accidentally rising. The valves are opened to raise the caisson, which then rises until it floats at its light draft.

Trade Openings.

Those who take the gloomiest view of trade prospects abroad at the present time will find small justification for their attitude in the results that have attended the recent Shipping, Engineering, and Machinery Exhibition. Of course, it would be futile to argue that there is any likelihood of any great expansion of trade in the immediate future, but what the Exhibition does show is that orders for machinery are to be had on no small scale. One can only hope, therefore, that firms who have abstained from catering for foreign markets will take heart and try to obtain some of the trade that is undoubtedly going. The most significant feature about the Exhibition was not so much the good business that was done at it, but the many inquiries for machinery that have been forthcoming since it ended. The variety of these has been very striking. They include such things as weldless steel tubes, machinery for plantations, such as pumps, electrical machinery, ice plants, etc., a generating set, and a small air compressor.

A New Gear.

A new gear, invented by M. Constantinesco, famous as the inventor of the gear which enabled machine guns to fire through aeroplane propellers moving at a rate of up to 2,000 revolutions per minute, is described in the *Motor*. The outstanding feature of the new gear is that it has an infinitely variable range. It is claimed for it that it dispenses with the clutch, gear-box, and the back-axle drive, and that it automatically adjusts itself to load and gradient. It is further claimed that the device eliminates friction, noise, and the reversal of drive in transmission, reduces weight, and enables the use of a smaller power unit. While the gear has not reached perfect form, tests of it are stated to have given extraordinary results. In one test a 10-h.p. Singer engine was fitted into a big Sheffield-Simplex chassis, and the car, containing ten men, was started and accelerated easily on a 1-in-8 gradient, and also mounted 6 in. blocks of wood placed in front of the rear wheels. Subsequently, a fully loaded four-ton lorry was attached, and this extra load was also taken. The device is applicable to all forms of transmission, and obviously opens out most interesting possibilities. Further details of the device will be keenly awaited.

MINERAL PRODUCTION OF BURMA.

The annual report on the mineral production of Burma, which has just been issued, shows that there were a number of marked variations in output in 1922 as compared with the previous year. As regards precious minerals, there was a great increase in the production of jadeite, the total being 7,724 cwt., as compared with 3,815 cwt.; but while the output increased so considerably, the value only rose from Rs. 7,01,673 to Rs. 8,69,340, owing to the fact that larger stones of inferior quality were extracted during the year. The output of rubies declined from 112,197 carats to 93,078 carats, their value being Rs. 6,45,304. During the year an exceptionally valuable ruby of nearly 23 carats was discovered. The output of sapphires was more than doubled at 102,462 carats, as compared with 48,916 carats. There was also a marked increase in the production of silver, which totalled 4,205,504 oz., as compared with 3,535,021 oz. As regards other minerals, the output of petroleum amounted to 281,759,169 gallons, as against 296,092,057 gallons. The production of building material and road metal amounted to 21,048 tons, as compared with 28,209 tons, while the output of lead and lead ore rose from 33,855 tons to 39,262 tons.

The Electrical Development Association is raising £50,000 in order to organise at the British Empire Exhibition an extensive display of the application of electricity put up by the massed municipal and company undertakings of the country.

It is reported that the Oesterreichische Kreditanstalt (Austrian Credit Institute), in which a British banking group, consisting of Messrs. Lazard Brothers and the National Provincial and Union Bank of England, has recently acquired an interest, has concluded an agreement with the Roumanian Credit Bank with regard to co-operation in Roumania. A representative of the Austrian Credit Institute has joined the board of the Roumanian Credit Bank.

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also from——LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE FIUME GRAVOSA

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-: GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO HAVRE ST. MALO AND DIEPPE

LIVERPOOL: Cunard Building, Pier Head.
LONDON, E.C.2: 51, Bishopsgate.
OFFICES AND AGENCIES EVERYWHERE

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GEMSAH OIL REEFS.

The directors of Gemsah Oil Reefs, Ltd., announce that on well No. 1 being opened, which was done in the presence of a representative of the Mines Department of the Egyptian Government, after the lapse of the prescribed period for the setting of the cement plug, it flowed, and has continued to do so daily during the period it is allowed to remain open to relieve the pressure. The oil, samples of which have now been received in London, is of a high grade, with an excellent petrol content. A representative of the company is on his way to the property to arrange for the immediate installation of a pumping plant, and to take the necessary steps to secure the definite lease of the selected ground from the Egyptian Government, provided for under the terms of the prospecting licence. In view of the success that has attended the company's efforts, preparations are now being made for the sinking of a second well, which the directors are confident will be carried down to the oil horizon in very much less time than No. 1.

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

The India Office has issued the following *communiqué*:—

Rainfall during September was generally more than sufficient in the Central Provinces and Central India, sufficient in the United Provinces, Burma and Hyderabad, and deficient in parts of other Provinces. There has been some damage to standing crops in parts of the United Provinces; this is due to recent floods and excessive rains, but the extent of the damage is not yet known. In parts of the North-West Frontier Province crops have also been partly damaged by disease.

In parts of Bihar and Orissa, owing to the shortage of rain, the harvesting of winter rice will not exceed half of the normal, and the chances of the spring crops will be affected. The rice yield in parts of Bombay will also be poor; the situation there, as regards other crops, is still uncertain. Further rains are needed, more particularly in parts of Madras, Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa, Rajputana and Ajmer.

In Burma, Bengal, and Assam, the situation, brought about by floods, has materially improved. In Burma, the greater portion of the flooded area has been replanted; the condition of standing crops is otherwise generally satisfactory and the supply of food grains is sufficient.

Prices in Provinces vary considerably, and are practically stationary. Economic conditions are generally satisfactory. The health of cattle is good, except in parts of the United Provinces, Rajputana and Hyderabad, where cattle disease is reported. Fodder is scarce in parts of Madras; shortage of fodder and water is likely in Sind and in parts of Bombay. Otherwise the supply is sufficient. On the whole the agricultural outlook is favourable.

The Hyderabad (Deccan) Company has declared an interim dividend of 1s. 6d. per share, less tax, payable October 31, to holders registered October 8, 1923.

Sir Henry Seymour King on October 8 was unanimously elected Deputy Chairman of the General Commissioners for Income-Tax for the City of London in place of the late Sir William Treloar.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

CONSTANTINOPLE.

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A. H. REID, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR, E. HODLER } Sub-Directors. DJEVIAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

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LE COMTE FREDERIC PILLET-WILL.
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London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

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Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.
PARIS: 7, Rue Meyerbeer.
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CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.
Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

COTTON-GROWING IN THE SUDAN.

Progress with Development Schemes.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Governor-General of the Sudan, and Colonel Schuster, Financial Secretary to the Sudan Government, were the guests at luncheon of the British Cotton-Growing Association in Manchester on October 2, when Sir Lee Stack gave an interesting review of the position in the Sudan. Lord Stanley presided, in the unavoidable absence of Lord Derby, and those present included the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Sir A. A. Haworth, Sir William Barton, Mr. W. H. Himbury, general manager of the Bristol Cotton Growing Association, and Lieut.-Col. Shute, president of the Liverpool Cotton Association.

Sir Lee Stack said that the canalisation in the area of the Gezira scheme had progressed very well in the last nine months. The new contractors, Messrs. S. Pearson and Sons, had got their full organisation at work, and were in a good position to tackle the most important and difficult part of the work from an engineering point of view, the deep channel across the Blue Nile. The latest reports of the Blue Nile showed that the water was falling rather rapidly. This would give the contractors a longer working season, and he was very hopeful that the deep channel would be completed by the next rise of the Blue Nile. That difficulty out of the way, there ought to be nothing to prevent their seeing water on the land by July, 1925.

He pointed out that the Kassala Railway had been begun. It was hoped that the construction would progress at a minimum rate of one mile a day. In anticipation of the advance of this railway, the Sudan Government had cut two new canals in the Delta which would lead the water on to virgin soil and would enable another 5,000 acres to be put under cotton. Tokar was another area where the cultivation of cotton could be extended.

Dealing with progress elsewhere, he said that in other directions the Sudan Government were taking up the question of cotton-growing. The Government farms in the Berber Dongola provinces were growing an increased amount of the long staple American type of cotton. The Sudan Plantations Syndicate had a flourishing estate at Zeidah which was growing American cotton. A small beginning had been made in the Kordofan province, and quite recently they had taken up the cultivation of cotton of the American type on the Upper Nile among the Shilluk tribe. The Government were putting an agricultural inspector among them, as they had shown a certain amount of interest in growing cotton. In research work they were to be helped this winter by the visit and advice of Sir John Russell, director of Rothamstead, and Dr. Leake, the well-known grower of cotton and botanist in India, who were to form a commission of inquiry and advice on the Sudan position. He could safely assure them that the output of cotton next year would be double that of last year, and this without either of the big schemes he had described coming into operation. When they did come in the increase would be three or four times what it would be next year.

Colonel Schuster said that the first instalment of the Sudan cotton-growing development comprised an area of 300,000 feddans, and the whole scheme for developing the 3,000,000 feddans of the Gezira involved the irrigation of an area equal to all the Midland Counties of England. The minor canalisation which the syndicate were undertaking amounted to 11,000 miles. They were confident of getting cotton from the first area in the season 1925-26, and hoped for continuous progress after that. He looked for a million bales yearly within fifteen years from now. That would not only relieve Lancashire's shortage of supply, but would be important to England as a whole. It would mean the development of a vast new market for the consumption of British manufactures and a lessening of the burden of our debt to the United States, who expected us to pay them off but refused to take our manufactured goods as part of the process, although we at present had to buy their raw cotton to so great an extent.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Continued Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended September 28, state :—

Since our last report the futures market has continued active, but with no great change in prices ; the tendency at the close was somewhat weak. New York has kept fairly steady during the week, but the demand from abroad for Egyptian has not increased to any great extent. New crop cotton is now coming down from Upper Egypt in fairly large quantities, and some hedge selling against unsold arrivals has had the effect of checking the bullish proclivities of some of the speculators. The difference between Sakellarides and Ashmouni has remained almost unchanged ; the disappointing results of the Sakellarides crop in certain districts of the South Delta have frightened operators who were selling Sakellarides against purchases of Ashmouni, and, as was the case last week, it is the reversal of the straddles that has maintained the difference between these two varieties. The difference of October Ashmouni with the more distant months of the same variety is very small, and in view of the nearness of the tender month, this may be taken as an indication of strength. With the existing supplies of Uppers consisting mainly of high-grade cotton and the official quotations showing only $\frac{3}{4}$ difference between Fully Good Fair and Good, it would not be surprising if tenders were freely received by some of the exporters. This week's receipts amount to 196,006 Krs., against exports 86,338 Krs. ; the stock stands at 948,246 Krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet-el-Bassal and sales amount to about 18,500 bales, of which we estimate 8,800 bales Sakellarides, 9,600 bales Uppers, and 100 bales outside growths. There have been heavy arrivals, and the stock shows a good increase, though exports are also quite good.

Sakellarides.—Once again the medium and good grades have attracted most attention, only a small demand having been experienced for the lower grades. The prices of spot against contracts are generally dearer all round, the higher grades especially so.

Uppers.—Medium and good grades have been in good request ; the lower qualities are neglected, but at the same time scarce and dear. Spot prices against contracts are dearer than last week, especially for Fully Good Fair and below.

Brown.—A small business has been done at hardening rates.

White.—A retail business has been done. Spot quotations against contracts are considerably dearer than last week.

Crop 1923.—The movement of the crop in Upper Egypt is in full swing, and heavy arrivals are to be expected from that quarter. In Lower Egypt, as we have previously mentioned, the results are very irregular, and whereas in the Central Delta districts yields are normal, or even above normal, our information is that in the great bulk of the districts of the Southern Delta the Sakellarides yields are very disappointing, whilst even those of Zagora and Pilion, although slightly better, are not up to expectations. The position of the Northern districts of the Delta is still uncertain.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Activity in Futures.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 3 :—

Egyptian Futures.—A considerable amount of activity has been witnessed in this department throughout the week. Prior to yesterday prices advanced steadily under the stimulus of steady buying by Continental and local speculators. Further reports of deterioration in the Sakel crop and advancing American markets also helped to create a very firm undertone. The culminating point in the advance was reached yesterday afternoon, when a sharp upturn in Americans saw 18½d. quoted for the January, March, and May positions. At this point profit-taking and a smart reaction in the other markets caused prices to fall away 74 points from the top. The decline has continued to-day, but on a much reduced scale, so that the net appreciation on the week only amounts to 22 to 37 points for near and 17 to 22 points for distant positions. Trade support has not been so much in evidence as hitherto, and Manchester reports have revealed no special features. Certainly, the course of the market during the past two days has not been helpful to the development of any weighty business in the yarn market. The premium on the distant positions in our market still tends to diminish. No doubt, the comparatively small amount of cotton carried here contributes to a certain extent to this end, but probably the large short straddle interest in the spring and summer months against purchases of Americans is the more decisive factor. This latter operation appears to us a decidedly risky transaction under ruling conditions, as, should the present reports in circulation regarding the disappointing yield and quality

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of the Sakel crop be borne out, the difference would probably widen sharply; also, it must not be forgotten that the consumption of Egyptian cotton has increased largely during recent years, and there are no indications that the present season is going to be an exception. The Alexandria market has moved closely in sympathy with fluctuations in the American markets; new crop receipts continue to show only a moderate amount of cotton coming "into sight," and, so far, hedging operations have not been in evidence to any extent. Ruling conditions are such as certainly debar working on the short side, although a growing crop movement may cause some temporary recession in values from time to time. We consider the best policy to follow is to utilise any weak sessions to enter into conservative purchases, as a considerably higher range may be witnessed later in the season.

Egyptian Spot.—During the early part of the week an improved tone was noticeable, and, although the demand was far from active, prices hardened steadily until practically all the previous week's setback had been recovered, the feature being the strength of Sakel in response to numerous reports of crop damage. A further strong advance was registered yesterday, all markets displaying strength in anticipation of "bullish" Government reports from the U.S.A. These expectations were at first realised by the publication of the ginners' figure of 3,215,000 bales, which were interpreted as being very "bullish," but a complete *volte face* occurred when the condition figure appeared as 49.5 per cent. Prices tumbled rapidly, and it is safe to say that a good deal of business which was on the verge of going through was left in the air. Actually, with F.G.F. Sakellaridis at 18.50d., we are back where we were a fortnight ago, and we fail to see that any material change has taken place in the cotton situation as a whole, in spite of the fluctuations we have experienced. Even with an American crop of 11½ millions there is little enough ground on which to base a hope of lower prices. As for the Egyptian crop, we include a carry-over smaller than has been the case for many years past, and there seems now no doubt that the Sakel crop, which already had been curtailed in order that more upper might be grown instead, has now suffered considerable damage in certain areas (particularly the southern part of the Delta) from fogs. One reliable authority estimates that this year there will be approximately 1¼ million cantars less Sakellaridis available than last year, and this with a good steady Egyptian trade moving, as witness the daily sales for months past. The spot demand here shows little or no variation. Buyers of Sakellaridis are revising their ideas somewhat, and the inquiry now runs, generally speaking, from 100 to 150 on November contracts. For cotton above this figure the inquiry has been strictly limited. Uppers have again been eagerly sought after, and many sales "afloat" have taken place, particularly when the ship has been close at hand. Very little has actually appeared on the spot, and it is spot cotton which is so badly wanted here at the moment by many spinners. The basis for uppers has hardened again, and in spite of yesterday's severe drop in American, it has fully held its own. Low cottons have not been so much in request of late, but whenever a lot of straight cotton (*i.e.*, not re-cleaned) turns up of the fair to fully fair variety there is generally a ready market for it at a price. Only a moderate business has taken place in Sudan cotton. A small but steady demand has appeared for white Sudan during the last week or so; prices range from 150 to 200 on American contracts. There has been a considerable c.i.f. inquiry, but business on the whole has been disappointing, the unsettled markets being chiefly responsible. Estimated sales 3,500 bales, to which has to be added 450 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised on the week 35 points, extra fine exceptionally being 25 points higher. Brown and uppers show a reduction on balance of 5 points. F.G. fair Sakel to-day 18.50d. per lb.

Mysore Gold Mining.—Interim dividend on account of the year ending December 31 of 9d. per share. The dividend a year ago was the same.

One million gold roubles have been appropriated for the immediate development of irrigation works in Turkestan, says Reuter's Moscow correspondent in a message dated October 7.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Market Position Unchanged.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 6 states:—

There is no change to report in the state of the market, wide fluctuations in raw cotton having rendered the limited business on offer very difficult to negotiate. The principal matter of interest has been the meeting which was held yesterday, at the suggestion of the Lord Mayor of Manchester, of all sections of the cotton trade, including operatives, to consider the present state of the industry. About 200 representatives were present, and many points of view found expression. It was finally decided that a further meeting should be held, to consist of an equal number of employers and operatives, "with a view to discussing whether any practical steps can be formulated for the betterment of the cotton trade."

Yarn.—The market has been disturbed in sympathy with raw cotton, and consequently the amount of business transacted has been small. In American qualities there are still many weak sellers, and buyers have little difficulty in obtaining virtually their own terms. The position of Egyptian spinners remains fairly good. On the week prices are practically unchanged.

Cloth.—Only a moderate business has been done, and this principally in light and fancy goods. In these classes India has made some good purchases, but of the heavier cloths such as sheetings very little appears to have been bought. Not much has transpired as regards China or other outlets, although the Near East has, perhaps, operated somewhat more freely than recently.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, prices have fluctuated considerably. The American Agricultural Bureau report published on Tuesday gave the condition of the crop as 49.5 per cent., and estimated a total of over 11,000,000 bales. The latter was a larger figure than had been expected, and caused a fairly sharp fall, partly recovered, however, on the following day, so that on balance prices of American are only slightly lower, whilst those of Egyptian are higher to about the same extent. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 16.84; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.60.

A Russo-Persian bank has been opened at Teheran.

The Bulgarian Government has remitted the first half-yearly reparation instalment of £100,000 to the Reparations Commission.

A commercial treaty has been arranged between Czecho-Slovakia and Norway on the basis of the most favoured nation treatment.

The Bombay Gas Company announces a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, less tax, for the half-year ended June 30, payable November 1.

The share transfer books and register of members of the Burmah Oil Co., Ltd., will be closed from October 11 to 20, inclusive, for payment of half-yearly dividends on preference and interim dividend on ordinary shares.

British Burmah Petroleum Company.—The transfer books of the 8½ per cent. second mortgage debenture stock will be closed from October 15 to 29 (inclusive), for the preparation of warrants for interest payable November 1.

The profit of Raphael Tuck and Sons for the year ended April 30, after providing for directors' and managers' remuneration, was £41,481. The directors recommend a final dividend of 12 per cent. per annum, making 10 per cent.; £2,577 is transferred to special dividend reserve, leaving £5,881 to be carried forward.

Mr. Felix J. C. Pole, general manager of the Great Western Railway, has been authorised by the directors of his company to accept an invitation to proceed to the Sudan to report upon the possibility of effecting economy in the general administration and working of the Sudan Government railways and auxiliary services, including the harbour of Port Sudan. Mr. Pole will leave for the Sudan early in November and expects to be back by the end of January.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH

SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, etc. Tablets, 6d.

"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d. and 4d. 1s. Boxes.

The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery. Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 4s. each.

Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.

Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,

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Near East Markets.

LONDON PRODUCE REPORT.

Smyrna Fruit in Good Request.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Sugar.—Home refined has been in fair demand at unchanged rates. Tate's cubes have been done at 61s. 6d. London granulated has come to business at 57s. 7½d., while Lyle's granulated is 57s. 10½d. Foreign descriptions have been steady. White Java is 54s., while Czech granulated is 25s. 4½d. Futures are :—December, 24s. 9d.; March, 23s. 10½d.; May, 24s. 3d.

Coffee.—A firm tone has prevailed. East Indian remains at 110s.; Costa Rica is unaltered at 102s.; Nairobi is the same at 92s.; while Santos is unchanged at 68s.

Dried Fruit.—With the new season's produce beginning to arrive it should not be long before this market begins to display activity. At present, however, the tone is distinctly quiet. Currants have been a noticeably dull feature, the demand being very poor, and reduced prices have so far not led to an increase in activity. Sultanas have been a fair market, and as supplies are rather small, prices remain hard. The new crop Smyrna sultanas are in good demand. Smyrna figs have now arrived on the market, and their appearance has given general satisfaction. The demand for this commodity is very good. New crop dates are also in excellent request.

Oilseeds.—A steady tone has ruled. Indian linseed is firm at 21s. 7½d., while La Plata is 20s. 4½d. Rapeseed is firm, with Toria at 17s. 9d. and real bold Ferozepore at the same. Cottonseed has been inactive. Indian is 9s. 3d., Egyptian black is 11s. 10½d., while Sakellaridis is 11s. 7½d.

Seed Oils.—Linseed has been steady at 43s. 6d. Rape oil is firm, crude being 39s. 3d. and technical refined 42s. 3d. Cotton oil is quiet. Refined common edible is 44s. Egyptian crude is 38s., technical is 41s., and deodorised is 47s.

Oil Cakes.—There is no change to report. Linseed cake at 225s., coconut cake at 170s., and cottonseed cake at 152s. 6d. are all unchanged.

THE SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 22 :—

The market has been ruling steady, with small variations. Low grades are if anything cheaper, while fine grades are maintained. Outstanding qualities are at a premium. The arrivals of sultanas since the opening of the season are estimated at 11,500 tons, as compared with 6,080 tons at the same period last year, and the sales to date are estimated at 9,600 tons, as against 5,200 tons.

The Seamless Steel Boat Company, Ltd., of Wakefield, supplied thirteen 27 ft. seamless steel lifeboats to the British India Company's new steamer Talma, and also a 27 ft. motor lifeboat.

Captain R. C. Petter and Mr. R. J. Norton have been elected additional directors of Petters, Yeovil. Captain R. C. Petter and Mr. R. J. Norton have for many years been associated with this company as London manager and commercial manager respectively.

Regarding the folding and marking of cotton piece-goods imported into Egypt, H.B.M. Commercial Agent at Cairo reports that although the Decree of June 15, 1922, provides that such goods must be lapped on uniform lengths of 1 metre or 1 yard, or on fixed fractions, such as one-half one-third, or one-quarter of a metre or yard, the Egyptian Ministry of Finance has recently authorised the Customs Administration to accept goods lapped on lengths of two-thirds or three-quarters of a metre or yard.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date October 1 :—

Currants.—Owing to the Italo-Grecian crisis, and the possibility of other countries becoming involved, we experienced a period of very active trading during the opening days of the month, and this undoubtedly had an adverse effect on the new fruit when the Cypria arrived on the 17th ult. with 1,800 tons, a considerable portion of the cargo consisting of old stock. If conditions generally were more encouraging the trade would certainly be bullish, as reports are that not over 50,000 tons out of a crop estimated at 85,000 tons will be free from rain damage, but with abnormal conditions prevailing throughout the world and unemployment rife in our own country, we fear buyers will persist in the policy adopted since the opening of the season, restricting their purchases to absolute requirements. The quality of the samples so far seen is distinctly disappointing, Vostizza grade only coming up to anything like previous season's standard. Of course, we must not lose sight of the fact that the 1922 crop was exceptionally good. S.S. Cypria's fruit had a discouraging reception at the hands of buyers, and met a very dragging sale. Opening prices : Pyrgos, 52s. 6d. to 53s.; Amalias, 54s. to 55s.; Patras and Gulf, 55s. to 56s., all of the cleaned variety; Vostizza, uncleaned, 65s. Other growths failed to attract. Market continued extremely quiet, buyers exercising the greatest caution, and prices declining from opening rates. S.S. Flaminian with 2,500 tons arrived during the closing days of the month, and very little improvement in quality is so far noticeable. It was hoped that with a better selection available more interest would be evinced, but with the exception of Vostizza there is no sign of this. This grade practically monopolises the little business passing, 62s. 6d. to 65s.; shade dried, 65s. to 70s.; smalls, 62s. to 70s. A fair trade was done in old fruit per Cypria—viz., Zante, 52s.; cleaned Amalias, 53s.; and smalls, 54s.; Vostizza, 60s. to 64s. Quotations :—Pyrgos, 46s. to 48s.; Amalias, 50s. to 52s.; Zante, 50s. to 52s.; Gulf, 52s. to 56s.; Panariti and Vostizza, 60s. to 70s. Australians were more appreciated, and realised : Two Crowns, 63s., and Three Crowns, 66s.

Raisins.—Valencia.—The first steamers, Gunver and Calderon, with about 120 tons, are momentarily expected, and will practically open the season. Capes have sold readily—Grade 1, 48s. to 50s.; Grade 2, 45s.; Grade 3, in bags 35s. Australian, Lexias, in good demand, selling 46s. to 50s.; the next arrival per Cornwall is now due.

Sultanas.—Cressado, with the first of the new crop Smyrna (14,800 boxes) met a good demand, only a small quantity being available (sales having been effected while goods were afloat) and it was quickly absorbed at 64s. to 75s. Quality though lacking in size, showed good colour and condition. A considerable business also passed in old fruit at 50s. to 56s., and in Greeks at 50s. to 52s. In the later days under review old stocks showed some reduction in value, with sales difficult, 45s. 6d. to 50s. Sea Glory and Gerano, with further supplies of about 70,000 boxes are discharging, and as a large proportion is already disposed of, the quantity for the brokers' counters is relatively small. A fair business in good average cleaned has taken place, 42s. Closing price is down to 39s. c.i.f. Australians are selling freely, the stock of Two Crowns (cleared) at 60s., Three Crowns 65s. to 66s. Afghans—red selling at 37s., 38s.; yellow 50s. Capes—sun dried, 47s., sulphured slow, 48s. to 57s.

Figs.—The first consignment of 280 skeleton cases per Cressado was marketed, quality and condition proving acceptable to the trade. They were quickly disposed of. Layers 90s. to 95s., large boxes; 100s. to 110s. small boxes. Locoums, 115s. to 130s Further quantities are now landing ex Gerano. Bags naturals, genuine quality, sold on a c.i.f. basis at 27s. Latest quotations 21s. to 21s. 6d. c.i.f. for prompt shipment.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

Egypt.

Paper, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Buláq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and grey board. November 24.

Paper, etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery required for the year 1924-1925. November 29.

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Stock and Share Markets.

RISE IN GILT-EDGED.

Oils Still Dull.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, Tuesday Morning.

Conditions during the past week have not changed very much. The markets for the most part have remained in a quiet condition, business continuing on the most restricted scale owing to the European situation. It is really not surprising that activity should be restricted in present circumstances. Investors naturally want to know where they stand, and, as I pointed out last week, there is unlikely to be any real revival of business until it is seen clearly now the situation is going to develop.

It is not without interest as a sidelight on the strength of the financial position here to note that there are a number of new issues in the offing. Evidently the fluctuations of the exchanges and the European *impasse* are not being permitted to interfere with schemes of development. The autumn, of course, always sees many new issues, but the indications are that the number this year will be unusually large. We have had a few of them already, and the results have shown once again that there is always money available here for sound investments. It is really small wonder, in view of the way in which new issues have been taken up since the War, that there should be such a demand for loans on the London market. I may mention that the forthcoming issues are expected to include a few for India and the Near East, and it would not be surprising if one or two oil issues were made in the near future.

Gilt-Edged Firm.

The adverse exchange movements have not had any great effect on gilt-edged descriptions, which are quite firm. Consols, at 58½, have gained 5-16, Conversion Loan, at 78⅝, is 5-16 lower, War Loan Fives, at 102⅝, are 7-16 up, while Fundings are ⅛ down at 91. Indian issues have been steady, the Seven per Cent. Loan being unchanged at 119, while the Three per Cent. Loan is 59¼.

Movements in the market for Foreign Government securities have been affected to some extent by the exchanges. On the whole prices are lower than a week ago, and it would be impossible to describe the market as being other than depressed French stocks have been dull, War Loan Fives, at 28¾, are ¾ lower, while the Four per Cents., at 23¼, have shed ¼. German Three per Cents. have again made a firm showing, and at 16s. show a gain of 6d., while Italian Rentes are ½ down at 20½. After their rise the previous week, Czecho-Slovak Eight per Cents. have eased off, and are ½ down at 95. The Austrian Loan has continued to improve, and is 3½ premium. Turkish Unified have again been a weak spot, and at 22¼ are ¼ down.

Industrials Quiet.

The week has been distinctly variable in the Industrial group, and while the tone at closing is decidedly better, prices in a number of descriptions show a decline. Business has been on the usual restricted scale, and it would not take much improvement in demand to make a vast difference to prices.

Tobaccos have again been fairly firm. Bats are 6d. down at 108s., while Imperial Tobaccos have gained 9d. at 75s. Textiles have made rather a variable showing. Coats have firmed up to 70s., at which they show a gain of 1s. 9d., while Courtaulds are 1s. down at 61s. 6d. Iron and Steel descriptions have been inactive. Armstrongs are 16s. 6d. xd., Guest Keens are 41s., while Vickers are 13s.

Shipping shares have been quiet. P. and O. Deferred are a point down at 310, Cunards are unchanged at 19s., while Furness Withy are the same at 31s. Bank shares have improved. Chartered of India at 19⅜ are ⅜ up, National of India have gained ¼ at 44½, Imperial of Persia are unchanged at 6¾, Agricultural of Egypt are 6⅝, at which they are ⅛ lower. National of Egypt are unchanged at 23, while Westminsters are 17 9-16, a gain of 1-16.

Oils Heavy.

Oils have made a very variable showing throughout the week, and yesterday closed on a very dull note. There are not, however, any striking changes in prices to be recorded. Anglo-Persian Ord. at 2 13-16 are ⅛ lower, while Burmahs at 4 13-16 have gained ¼. Lobitos are 6 13-32, Mexican Eagle are 21s. 6d., while Shell Transport are 3 9-32.

In the Roumanian group Phœnix are unchanged at 15-16, Dacia Romanos at 27-32 are ⅛ up, Steaua Romanas are 3d. up at 7s. 3d., while Hamilton's Concessions are unchanged at 1s. 3d. Among Egyptians Anglo-Egyptian B are 1-16 down at 1, while Gemsah Oil Reefs are 23-32, a gain of 1-32.

Egyptians Variable.

A rather variable tone has obtained in the Egyptian group. Sidi Salems are 1⅛, New Egyptians are 23s. 3d., Aboukirs are 17s. 9d., Gharbieh Land are 1½, Beheras are 8, and Union Foncieres are 2⅛.

In the Sudan group Sudan Plantations are 6, while Kassala Cotton are 13s. 3d.

Lord Southborough has joined the board of the Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd.

Debentures of the Calcutta Improvement Trust Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debenture Loan of 1923 and of the Trustees of the Port of Madras Five-and-a-Half per Cent. Debenture Loan of 1923 are ready for delivery in exchange for certificates to bearer at the Imperial Bank of India, 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.

The United Jewish People's Bank, Ltd., has been registered as a public company with a nominal capital of £50,000 in £1 shares (100 founders' and 49,900 ordinary). The objects are: To promote the development of handicraft industries and agriculture among Jews, particularly by supporting all kinds of co-operative undertakings; to assist the emigration and immigration of Jews throughout the world; to carry on business as bankers in all its branches, etc.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅝-97$\frac{3}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	310-320
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	387-407
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.40-25.43
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{5}{16}$-1.4⅜
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89.60-89.70
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	980-990
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$\frac{5}{16}$-1.4⅜
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	760-780
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.55$\frac{15}{16}$-4.55$\frac{15}{16}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	76-76.10
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	153
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100½-100¾
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	440-490
Teheran	Krans to £	50	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	4,200,000*

* Nominal.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Anchoria for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 25); s.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 5).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 24); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Malda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 13); s.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 26); s.s. Talma for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 27); s.s. Matiana for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 9); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 10).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Ranald for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 16).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Simla for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 16); s.s. City of Baroda for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 25).

Ellerman, Bucknall, and Strick Lines.—S.s. Shahristan for Persian Gulf (Manchester, October 18).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constanza (Liverpool, October 20).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constanza (London, October 19).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 27).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, October 13).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Destro for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, November 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. China for Bombay (London, October 19); s.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Kashmir for Bombay (London, October 25); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Delta Light Railways.

Coupons for accumulated arrears of dividend on the 5½ per cent. cumulative preference shares of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways, Ltd., for the years ended March 31, 1922 and 1923, are now ready for issue. Share warrants to bearer and registered certificates must be lodged either at the company's offices, 210-216, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C. 2 (between 11 and 3, Saturday excepted), or with the National Bank of Egypt, Cairo or Alexandria, for endorsement. Preference shares Nos. 1 to 104,078 are entitled to the following coupons: For 1922 coupon, "V," representing 1½ per cent., equal to 3s. per share, less tax; for 1923 coupon, "W," representing 1½ per cent., equal to 3s. per share, less tax.

Assam Railways.

The report of the Assam Railways and Trading Co. for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings show an increase of Rs. 2.21,538 and the expenditure an increase of Rs. 1,02,243. The general revenue account shows a profit of £116,733. After payment of debenture interest and allowing for all preference dividends, there remained £61,355. The directors have to provide £50,400 for the service of the "A" stock, and recommend a dividend of 3 per cent. on the "B" stock, leaving £1,955 to be carried forward. Meeting, Winchester House, October 17, noon.

Passengers by the P. and O. special train, which connects with the outward mail steamer at Marseilles, will in future proceed viâ Boulogne, instead of Calais.

Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph.—Interim dividend for the three months ended June 30 last of 5s. per share, payable free of tax on October 15. The dividend a year ago was the same.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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Reserve - - - - - - - - £150,000

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 649—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Imperial Conference.

The Conference between the British Government, the Prime Ministers of the Dominions, and representatives of India has naturally had to take cognisance of Near Eastern affairs. Lord Curzon's review of Great Britain's foreign policy dealt at length with the Treaty of Lausanne and its bearing on the future relations between Britain and Turkey; and last week a session was devoted to the work of the League of Nations, with special reference to the League's action in regard to the Italo-Greek crisis. The meeting was notable for the lucid statement made by Lord Robert Cecil, who not only corrected a number of misconceptions concerning the attitude of the Council of the League by setting out the salient points in their chronological order, but also made out a good case for his contention that the League had come out of the ordeal unhurt, in spite of the Italian repudiation of its competence. The small nations should read Lord Robert Cecil's defence of the League and take heart. Its machinery, he declared, had worked well, according to plan, and as a counterweight to the Italian repudiation may be set the fact that the voice of public opinion, which rallied to the League, proved overwhelming in its effect, as those who believed in the League thought it would be; "no country could stand against it, and when it became clear that the public opinion of the world was on one side, that country had to modify its policy in accordance with the opinion expressed."

Matters Awaiting Settlement.

As far as the League was concerned, the Italo-Greek incident, in the opinion of Lord Robert Cecil, was settled when both Italy and Greece accepted the Ambassadors' Note of September 13. With the subsequent confiscation of the Greek deposit it had nothing to do, and, unfortunately, on this point there is a general anxiety on the part of those responsible for this gross piece of injustice to keep silent. Lord Curzon addressed the Imperial Conference on the political events resulting from the Janina murders, but his remarks so far have not been published, and the official report of the meeting at which Lord Robert Cecil spoke contains no reference to any statement made on the subject by members of the Conference. Certain matters, however, arose from the Græco-Italian incident, and these the League, with the approval of the Italian delegate, proceeded to discuss. Among them were the question of the League's competence, the question of the right to seize territory in order to enforce demands, and the question of the responsibility for political crimes committed on the territory of a State. With regard to the first, it was agreed that it should be submitted to a Commission of Jurists, but at the same time the Council of the League, including the Italian representative, approved a declaration that any dispute between members of the League likely to lead to a rupture is within the sphere of action of the League, and that, if the dispute cannot be settled by diplomacy, arbitration, or judicial settlement, it is the duty of the Council to deal with it under Article 15 of the Covenant. The other two questions are also to be submitted to legal determination. There would seem, therefore, to be considerable support for the view that the League has come out of the test not merely unhurt, but, as will be shown in the long run, actually strengthened.

Italy and the Balkans.

It is reported in the Constantinople Press that a meeting is shortly to be held between representatives of Italy, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Albania with a view to settling reciprocal interests of these Powers. The idea behind such a conference would be the logical outcome of Italy's aspirations in the Balkans, and the suggestion might conceivably be received sympathetically by the other countries. Between such a conference and the establishment of what has been called a new equilibrium in the Near East there is, however, a wide gulf, and very precise evidence will be required to satisfy us that Bulgaria or even Turkey would deliberately challenge the suspicion and hostility of neighbouring States for the dubious advantages that Italy at a distance can offer either of them. The policy of equilibrium as far as the Balkans are concerned is exploded. No good can come to any State from the old plan of trying to attach itself to a big

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Power in order to have a lever against one or more neighbours. The only alliance of which the Balkan States stand in need is one among themselves, forming as they do a compact geographical unit, with a view to promoting their material prosperity by co-operation in the economic sphere. The help of any Great Power to this end can be welcomed, but each country should beware of any cajoleries having for their aim a division of the Balkans into separate camps.

The Old Leaven.

Even if the report of Italy's diplomatic activities in the Balkans be only in the nature of a *ballon d'essai*, it affords additional evidence of the need for a definite British policy in the Near East. Italy is clearly seeking for a make-weight against the hostility she has incurred on the part of Yugoslavia and Greece. The peace of the Balkans or of Europe does not enter into her consideration, and she affects to ignore the fact that any attempt on her part to use Bulgaria for Italian ends will cause France to strengthen her hold on Yugoslavia. Thus the Continent will be brought back again to the evil plight in which it found itself in 1914, and another spark may start a general conflagration. The only feasible safeguard is for Great Britain, who alone of the three Allies has no selfish aims to serve in the Near East and has no other desire than to see the countries at peace with one another, to come out boldly with an appeal to the Balkan States to rally with her to the cause of peace.

Macedonia.

There will have to be some plain speaking on Great Britain's part if any lasting good is to be achieved in the Balkans. The present Yugoslav, or, more correctly speaking, Pashitch policy towards Macedonia must be modified in the cause of justice and common-sense. There is little to distinguish the situation in regard to Macedonia to-day from that which preceded and led up to the Great War. The Belgrade Government is playing the part that the Austro-Hungarian Government then played, but is "up against" even tougher material than the Dual Monarchy had to encounter. We are certain that what is taking place in Macedonia does not represent the policy that the considered judgment of the Yugoslav nation, mindful of its own past, would endorse. Schools are suppressed, churches closed, the people forbidden to use their own language—that at least is the gravamen of the charge brought by the Macedonians against the Serbians. If it is not true, it should be easy enough to disprove to the satisfaction of Europe. When such a policy is enforced, and, as it always will be in the Balkans, resisted to the death, there follow oppression and *komitaji* warfare. Naturally, the people escaping from or resisting such treatment take refuge in neighbouring countries. It will only be necessary for a Macedonian to emulate the Serb author of the Serajevo murder in order to produce the counterpart of the Austrian ultimatum, delivered this time in Sofia instead of in Belgrade, and a general war becomes almost inevitable. Such a policy cannot be in the interests of Yugoslavia or of any other country. On the other hand, if the Belgrade Government will practise what it preached so often and so eloquently to Austria-Hungary, and will give to its Macedonian subjects the liberty of speech, meeting, and conscience that it has undertaken in the Minorities Clauses of the various treaties to give, the Macedonian danger will cease, we believe, to be acute. The Macedonians may still aim at autonomy, but their propaganda will be carried on in a constitutional manner, and not by *komitajis*.

Bulgaria and the Powers.

The new Bulgarian Government has acted wisely in sending Colonel Kalfoff, its Foreign Minister, on visits of courtesy to the French, British, and Italian Governments. In London, at any rate, Colonel Kalfoff will have been convinced that his time has not been wasted. It would have been a poor compliment to him and to the new Cabinet in Sofia to have supposed that a mere exchange of meaningless compliments would have served the purpose of his visit. He came to satisfy the Allied Governments of Bulgaria's good intentions and to clear away any false impressions that may have been created by biassed reports of what is happening in Bulgaria. In London he met with a readiness to take the fullest possible advantage of his visit. Every point germane to the subject was explored, with the result that some misconceptions at least will have been removed. Left to herself, Bulgaria can pursue only a pacific foreign policy, and Colonel Kalfoff conveyed to all those with whom he came in contact the impression of being far too level-headed and sincere to lend himself to any adventures which would be likely to embroil Bulgaria with her neighbours. From London he goes to Rome to see Signor Mussolini, who is credited with a desire to use Bulgaria as an ally against Yugoslavia. Flattering as the Italian suggestion may be to Bulgarian *amour propre*, it is hardly likely that the present Government will stultify the good opinion that Bulgaria has earned abroad for a far-sighted policy in the most adverse circumstances by deliberately abandoning it for the inevitable entanglements that co-operation with Italy must entail.

Greek Politics.

The precarious nature of the Revolutionary Committee's tenure of office in Greece is clearly shown by the restrictions that it has been considered necessary to impose on the Press at the same time as the announcement of the abolition of the Press censorship is announced. Newspapers are forbidden to publish anything in connection with the execution of the six Ministers last November, to refer to the late King Constantine's actions since the establishment of the Revolutionary Government in September, 1922, or to make any personal comment on the Revolutionary leaders. The Prime Minister justifies these extraordinary orders on the ground that they are necessary in the interests of public order. If this is the case, Greece is clearly standing on the edge of a volcano that may break out in eruption at any moment. With four more resignations, there are now five vacancies in the Cabinet—a state of affairs that suggests that the Revolutionary Committee is becoming politically isolated. A few months ago the members might have justified their actions in whole or in part if they had declared their task at an end and withdrawn into private life, preferably leaving Greece for a period. They have, however, clung to power in the hope apparently of saving their skins, but only to find that Greek public opinion is being more and more alienated. To judge by the restrictions now imposed upon the Press, they realise that they will never be forgiven the execution of the six Ministers, and they must assuredly know that the only code that still holds in the East is an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. We could wish that they had been wise in time, for their unwisdom merely postpones still further for unhappy Greece the day when she will once again be a united country.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

There was considerable justification for the Turkish contention at Lausanne that the record of the Œcumenical Patriarchate had been far from

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satisfactory. The Turkish delegation, however, acted wisely in not pushing its claim for the abolition of the Patriarchate and in accepting a compromise which left the Patriarch in Constantinople, but shorn of his political privileges. There is no doubt that the sacred office of the Patriarchate could yet become a powerful factor in healing the breach between Greeks and Turks, to the great advantage of Turkey. To this end, however, care must be exercised in the selection of the Patriarch, and it would do no harm if for a while spiritual-mindedness were regarded as a stronger qualification than political shrewdness. There would not seem to be much "other-worldliness" in Papa Euthymios (Eftim), whom the Turks have allowed to monopolise the ecclesiastical limelight. It would be a tactful proceeding on the part of the Angora Government to repudiate this egregious prelate, who recently acted *ultra vires* at the Phanar, and seems to have overreached himself even with the Turks in securing his own appointment as Patriarchal delegate to Angora, an office which the Turkish Government is said to be disinclined to recognise. If the Turks do not wish Greek ecclesiastics to meddle with Turkish affairs, they should set the example of discouraging interference with Greek ecclesiastical affairs. If Papa Euthymios has to rely on Turkish backing for his authority, his activities are hardly likely to conduce to the establishment of the Patriarchate under the new conditions on sound lines.

Conference and Congress.

If anyone had leisure, in these crowded days, to study politics seriously, we should be inclined to recommend a careful comparison of the proceedings of the Imperial Conference now sitting in London with those of the Congress of Indian Extremists at Delhi, detailed reports of which reached this country last week. The Congress draws its inspiration wholly from a sentiment of hate. Some of its sections hate each other bitterly, but on this occasion they were striving to attain unity in hatred of a common enemy, and they succeeded in formulating a programme of pure destruction. The talk at Delhi ran on the breaking of laws, the wrecking of constitutions, and the ruin of the economic life of India, in the hope of causing some loss to British manufacturers and working men; if there were any projects for making things a little better, they were successfully concealed from the eyes of the public. The Conference, on the other hand, is inspired by goodfellowship, and it is working to reconcile differences, where they exist, in a practical policy of construction. Whatever concrete results may be secured, the Conference is certain to do good. For India's sake, we wish it were possible to assert that the Congress could do anything but evil.

The Prospects of the Wreckers.

As yet there is very little definite information regarding the chances of the extremists securing enough seats in the legislatures to carry out their declared intention of bringing business to a standstill. In an interesting analysis of the situation in the current *Asiatic Review*, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru writes that he would not be surprised if they should secure majorities both in Delhi and in the provinces, though he recognises that they may meet with powerful opposition in rural areas. So far this estimate can be tested only for Bengal, where the candidates' list is reported to have been closed, with the rather surprising result that there cannot be more than thirteen non-co-operators in a Council containing considerably more than a hundred members. If the figure supplied by the cable is accurate, there can be no serious trouble in Bengal, but it would be dangerous to draw any inference regarding other provinces, some of which have made much less progress in developing a political sense. All that can be said regarding them is that the elections are sure to be interesting, and it is possible they may enable the extremists to form a juster idea of their own importance than prevails among them at present.

The Season in India.

Our latest information from India is substantially in accordance with the official appreciation of the season which we published last week. The outlook for the coming winter and spring is favourable on the whole, but there are some rather big black patches on the map, and while the less fortunate areas do not usually export much produce, some of them will probably have to draw on the surplus which would otherwise be available for sale abroad, and in any case they will not be able to spend much money on anything except food. Taking the whole country together, there should, however, be a large volume of produce for export, and we suppose much of it will again be exchanged for such useless things as gold and silver. Strictly interpreted, the boycott resolution passed at Delhi would prohibit the importation of any of the gold produced in the British Empire, but we do not expect to hear of the Bombay bullion-dealers being picketed just yet, for one thing because they would not stand it, and for another because the wildest extremist would hesitate to incur the risk of antagonising the wives of his supporters.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Momentous Happenings.

The present is perhaps always a curious time, but it is doubtful whether it has ever been more curious than the one through which we lived last week. Everyone feels that great things are in the air, that the mists are dissolving to reveal a world shattered beyond hope or manfully calling itself to fresh life. But no one is clear on anything. Events in Germany loom very large—so large that the ordinary man, despairing of comprehending them, turns once more to calculating the chances of Papyrus against Zev; the League of Nations shouts in incredulous ears of its survival in the Corfu affair, and the ordinary man learns with more relief that two amateurs have been chosen to represent England at Soccer: the Imperial Conference meets in mighty majesty, but of what it is actually doing the ordinary man can hear little, yet is somewhat comforted by the fact that his tea shares are rising.

Without doubt these are momentous times: possibly that is why we know so little about them. One does not mean that the world is at the parting of the ways, or any rhetorical stuff of that sort, for we never can see just where we are, and even Lord Grey does not know whether we are some way down the abyss or merely in danger of toppling over. But, though their view may be short, many people appear to think that we are on the downward path, and that only a miracle can save us. However, most of them still seem to believe in miracles.

Protection.

For the most part the Imperial Conference, which cannot, it might be added, solve the problems of all the world, has received little comment in the Press—an unhealthy sign. In other days, whatever such a body of men decreed would have been welcomed as inspired, but now the guiding factors in men's attitude towards the Conference seem to be either our own Government's attitude towards the Conference or the

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extent to which the Conference is going to violate the principles of Free Trade.

The Rothermere Press, which, as I mentioned last week, has swollen to enormous dimensions, seems to have been mistaken in regard to Mr. Baldwin's beliefs. Originally it was all on the side of Protection; but in a day, or, rather, a night, it decided that our food must in no circumstances cost us more—a decision which has considerably annoyed our Protectionists. And, on the other side, attacking the Conference's proposals, are the dear old, ever-objecting friends, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Daily News*. They have many excellent points, these two papers, but they simply will not let their Free Trade hair be cut, and as it grows impossibly longer every day, they cannot now be recognised as human, living beings, but merely ghostly "beavers," who childishly, if with cultured voice, repeat the glib formulæ which held good thirty years ago. If only there were more reality behind the Protection-Free Trade controversy, one could look forward to its forthcoming renewal with pleasure, but the principles of both theories are dead: we are all pragmatists now.

The Empire and the League.

One day last week was devoted by the Imperial Conference to the consideration of foreign policy, and it is significant that in the official report full publicity is given to what was said on the League of Nations, and practically nothing on what was said of the Janina-Corfu affair. The difference between fancy and fact, the cynic might comment.

However, for what it is worth, the various Dominion Prime Ministers gave their adhesion to the League of Nations. What this means I confess I do not know. Certainly the Empire alone will not fight or boycott recalcitrant members of the League, and certainly neither the Empire singly nor its individual members will submit to the sovereignty of the League. Where the League may be useful is in being a platform for British views, because it may be in the future that the views of the League upon world peace will not, as they now do, coincide with British views. The limits of its potentialities are therefore narrow, and all the vague talk about the League as if it were some kind of international religion is so much nonsense.

Mr. Winston Churchill.

The second volume on Mr. Winston Churchill's work at the Admiralty is now appearing in part in *The Times*, and is, one would imagine, arousing even more intense interest than did the first volume. Everyone is saying, "By Jove! the man can write"; everyone is being reimpressed with his intellectual ability, and even his opponents are shaking their heads over the possibility of his return.

But he is making fresh enemies. He has an enormously clever and vivid way of so generalising upon events as to justify his subsequent action, and his remarks upon the war of attrition in the Western theatre have offended many admirers. He slangs wholesale the Generals in Belgium and in France as lacking in imagination, but his darts do not pierce far. Such attacks on men who were but doing their job have already been characterised by General Maurice as "mean," and in truth they should be left to satirical poets.

The Founder of Georgia.

In case any one should think that this paragraph should be about some Caucasian prince—and there is an amusing story told in the offices of The Near East that one of its news editors once made a similar mistake—I hasten to mention that it is in reference to the proposal to carry away to America the remains of General Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia. His grave in Cranham Churchyard has been investigated by zealous Americans, who are now seeking legal sanction to transport the body.

There has been since the War a perfect craving to dig up people's bodies, and there has not been half enough protest against it. To many, and certainly to me, this literal dragging up of the past is not only disgusting, but offensive to elemental, and not only to conventional, decency. Whatever attitude other peoples may adopt to their dead—and we are content to give to the Georgians spiritual possession of General Oglethorpe—we do not like churchyard graves desecrated. Disinterment that teaches us nothing, that is indulged merely to satisfy sentiment, is absolutely indefensible.

Independence.

The rectorial address on "Courage," given last year by Sir James Barrie at St. Andrews, created an enormous impression, and Mr. Rudyard Kipling's address was this year eagerly awaited. He chose the subject of "Independence," of which we think we know so much and in reality know so little. But his readers were, I think, a little disappointed. Here and there was the vivid phrase which more than anything else demarks him from his contemporaries; but his sentences were not so tight with thought as for him to escape the charge of being dull. He spoke of the value of owning oneself, of not being the slave of the State or of anyone else—an admirable axiom, certainly in danger of being overlooked in these days. But there is another aspect of the question, which leads straight to what is called the conscientious objector. In an absolutely individual State the objector would not be persecuted, as he deservedly is now persecuted. It is, after all, the absolute values which count, not the relative or personal values.

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"BRITON AND BRITISHER."

To the Editor of The Near East.

Sir,—King George III. in the first speech he made to Parliament said: "Born and educated in this country, I glory in the name of Briton." He recognised that he was King of "the four nations of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales," and, by selecting the term "Briton," he wished to be conciliatory to all! With regard to the term "Britisher," it is an undesirable Americanism.—I am, etc.,

Ralph Richardson.

Edinburgh, October 11.

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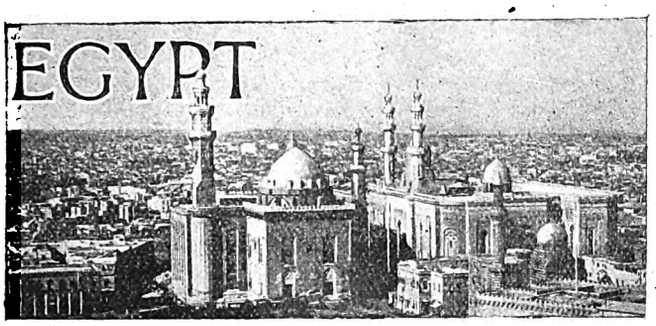
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 7.

Political Apathy.

The past week has been singularly clear of political excitements. It is really remarkable, considering the nearness of the elections proper, and the great activity of Zaghloul Pasha and his lieutenants, how little popular interest has been aroused in political matters. I have not been in the provinces recently, but friends who have made tours in the Delta and Upper Egypt during the past few weeks tell me that the countryfolk have a greater appreciation of their new powers as voters than have the majority of townsmen. Certainly the latter are apathy itself. The political atmosphere contrasts strikingly with the hectic times of 1921. Then Zaghloul Pasha's speeches were read with breathless interest; now, though his output of words is greater than ever, nobody seems to worry about them, one way or the other. Then martial law, political arrests, restrictions on the Press, on meetings, on his own movements, made excellent targets for his shafts. Now there is nothing tangible for him to attack. Only the "reactionary" Constitution and the British finger, still, according to him, in the Egyptian pie, make good "grouses." And since there is a great and growing number of Egyptians who are fearful for the future because they think the Constitution a great deal too advanced for Egypt in her present stage of development, and because they have already experienced unpleasant results of the relaxation of British control, Zaghloul Pasha's jeremiads are not meeting with their old success.

Falling Stock.

Nothing has better illustrated the changed conditions than a banquet given to Saad Pasha on Friday evening by the committee which has had charge of the celebrations in connection with his return. Where two years ago every ticket could have been sold twice over, the committee had difficulty this year in disposing of the three hundred odd seats, which did no more than make a fair show in a tent that could easily have held twice the number. And the company was the most undistinguished I have ever seen at a public banquet in Egypt. Besides Saad Pasha himself, the only personalities present were Mohammed Pasha Said, Tewfik Pasha Nessim, and Yousseff Pasha Soliman. None of these can be considered a supporter of Zaghloul Pasha, though it may suit them at the moment to appear sympathetic. Apart from these three, it was a gathering of nonentities. None of the great families of the country, the Abazas, the Abdel Razeks, the Ghazzalis, and a score of others, were represented. The tone of the gathering was cordial, but not violently enthusiastic. Zaghloul Pasha, in a speech delivered in so weak a voice that it could have been heard by only a fraction of those present, contradicted himself many times. Starting by declaring that the framers of the Constitution had so bound it about with restrictions that nothing but a revolution could change it, he concluded by saying "the Constitution is only a law, like all other laws, and can be altered just as well as any other. One of our first acts will be drastically to amend the Constitution, but we shall do so by strictly legal means."

Zaghloul Pasha's Dilemma.

It is dangerous to prophesy, but it is impossible to resist the conclusion that Zaghloul Pasha is losing his grip both of politics and of his former supporters. Starting off mildly, he was warned by his executive within a few days of his return that he must change his tone if he wanted the students—"my soldiers," as he used to call them—and the sheikhs to rally round him as of old. Going to the opposite extreme, he alarmed the more sober elements in the country and evoked leading articles in the London Press which caused him, according to his own statements, much surprise and pain. For the last ten days he has been trying to prove that he does not deserve the appellation of agitator. But to the only class which gives him disinterested support these apologias are waste of time. They want good, strong meat, not milk and water. No doubt it has already been hinted to him that a little more "pep" is advisable, so that another outburst must already be in preparation. His is an unfortunate position. He hates being called an agitator, yet as soon as he ceases to agitate he begins to lose ground.

The Old Order Changing.

Nothing is more indicative of the steady change going on in the British community in this country than the gradual alteration in character of so British an institution as the Turf Club. Formerly almost entirely an officials' club, it is slowly but surely coming to include more and more business men and to be more than ever before representative of the British colony as a whole. Old members, officials almost all, are steadily dropping out, while their places are being taken by the young Englishmen who come out to this country to the banks, the oil companies, engineering firms, and other commercial occupations. It is noticeable that the class of Englishman in business in this country now is different from that of a few years ago. The big oil concerns, in particular, but not alone, seem to be finding that the public school boy makes the

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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best type of employee in a country like Egypt, where so much depends upon the ability to keep one's end up and to steer a middle course in the sometimes difficult problem of relations with other nationalities, and particularly with the natives of the country.

The British Union.

The British Union in Egypt, after a troublous infancy which gave little hope of a long life, has developed into a very lusty and active youngster. During the past summer, although many of its leading members have been away, the Union has been busy with a variety of questions closely affecting British interests here, and has done much valuable work in keeping the authorities acquainted with the point of view of the local British community. In one matter in particular—concerning the right of the Mixed Courts to order the arrest and imprisonment of foreign subjects in certain circumstances—the Union has particularly interested itself. It is probable that, as a result of official attention having been drawn to certain aspects of the matter, there will be changes in the Mixed Court code. This, and other matters of interest to the British community, will be discussed at a meeting of the Union to be held next month.

ALBANIA.

Tirana, October 4.

The First Session.

The Parliamentary session has come to an end without any upset to Achmet Bey Zogu's Administration. Considerable nervousness was felt in governmental circles before the debate, held last Friday, on a vote of confidence, for seven of the Government's usual supporters had signified their intention of crossing the floor of the House.

The sitting lasted until four o'clock on Saturday morning, when the vote was taken. The result was a victory for the Government by 38 votes to 25. The seven "rats" absented themselves altogether from the debate.

The new electoral law has since been passed with few amendments. The elections for the Constituent Assembly are to be held within the next six weeks.

Slow Work.

Parliament can hardly congratulate itself on the work of the past session. Both the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's concession, which has been pending for the last two years, and the concession for the Tobacco Monopoly have had to be postponed for further consideration. This, unfortunately, means a delay of at least six months, as the Constituent Assembly will be unauthorised to deal wtih such questions until it has concluded its labours in amending the Constitution.

Archaeological Research.

The Italian concession for farming and land reclamation has also been postponed. The French, however, have succeeded in getting passed their concession for archæological research. They are to be heartily congratulated. Interesting results should follow from this concession, as Albania represents a rich and entirely unexplored field. Durazzo in Roman times counted over a quarter of a million inhabitants. Apollonia was another populous and famous centre. There were Roman colonies all over the rich plain of the Musakya, where, curiously enough, there lingers to this day the Latin dialect of the Kouzo-Vlachs. Recently a Roman pavement was discovered at Durazzo in the digging of a pit to dump old shells. Unfortunately, it was badly damaged in the course of the excavation.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, undated.

The General Situation.

Two recent events have dominated everything else in Bulgaria: the sudden tension with Yugoslavia, followed by an attempt to form an *entente*, and the outbreak of the Agraro-Communist movement.

The Serbo-Bulgarian Commission.

This Commission met on October 3. The two parties are represented, on the Yugoslav side, by M. Novakovitch, son of a former President of the Council and former delegate of Yugoslavia at the League of Nations, and MM. Peitch, Rashkovitch, and Drinkovitch; and on the Bulgarian side by the former Minister of Justice, M. Fadenhecht, a celebrated jurist, M. Kraghiozoff, President of the Chamber at the Court of Cassation, and M. Ilieff, Secretary of the Bulgarian Commissariat of Reparations. It will be seen that the Commission contains no politicians, the Conference having to deal only with juridical and economic questions; but that fact will not prevent its work, if it is well conducted, from having a very definite effect upon Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations.

The Conference was inaugurated by the President of the Council, M. Zankoff. In a short speech, he, after a word of welcome, emphasised the fact that the task of the Conference was to bring together the two peoples as brothers, and, by mutual concessions, to dispel the obscure points of difference which the War had bequeathed to them. He expressed a firm belief that this *rapprochement*, towards which they had been working for many years, would be attained, and, moreover, without infringing on the interests or dignity of either country. In replying, M. Novakovitch, head of the Yugoslav delegation, thanked M. Zankoff for his words of welcome, and, as the Bulgarian Premier had done, recalled the existence, long before the convocation of this Con-

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ference, of sincere champions of a Serbo-Bulgarian *rapprochement*, and concluded with an affirmation that the liquidation of the questions which were before the two delegations, although these were not fundamentally political, would create a stable basis for the development of economic relations between Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, which could not fail to facilitate a political *rapprochement*. Subsequently M. Fadenhecht restated the fact that the aim of the Conference was to finish the work begun at Nish, and that the Bulgarian delegation was also extremely anxious to help to lay the foundations of a Yugoslav-Bulgarian *rapprochement*.

Everyone is talking of *rapprochement*, and the sincerity of these declarations may be trusted. This sincerity is seen in the establishment even of the Conference's order of the day, which has the work divided into two categories: questions juridical and questions economic. The first part of the programme includes among other things the drawing up of a convention of extradition. In spite of the goodwill of which one sees proof on all sides, this subject will be a thorny one, for the Serbs would like to place in the category of common criminals the Macedonian *komitajis*, who are, or are thought to be, in Bulgaria, and whom the Government of Belgrade considers as responsible for acts of depredation and of aggression in Macedonia, but whom the Bulgarian Government can neither seize nor deliver and who, moreover, are to it only political criminals. This difference will certainly involve the Conference in delicate and difficult discussions, and the whole question has therefore been deferred until the end, the debates now being devoted to the economic agenda.

In this connection the Yugoslav delegation claims:—(1) A prolongation of the time fixed by the Treaty of Neuilly (Art. 125) for the restitution of objects sequestered in territories occupied by the Bulgarians during the War, and which have been subsequently identified in Bulgaria—a time which, in accordance with the express stipulation of this article, expired on August 9, 1921—that is to say, four months after the entry into force of the Peace Treaty. (2) Reimbursement for the requisitions in the same territory, which the Bulgarians think ought to be rendered in the total amount of reparations, and which the Serbs insist on being paid separately, basing their claim on a rather vague clause of Art. 177 of the Neuilly Treaty; and (3) A special indemnity for Yugoslav subjects whose interests in Bulgaria have been adversely affected by the working of the agrarian reforms and by the application of the law authorising the expropriation, for the needs of the State and of the communes, of estates, and especially of buildings belonging to individuals.

The Bulgarian delegation, on the other hand, demands:—(1) The regularisation of property in Yugoslav territory belonging to Bulgarian subjects, which Art. 177 gave to the Yugoslav Government the right of liquidating on account of the owners; liquidation to entail for all legitimate claims on the part of the latter (if they establish, in the words of the Treaty, before the Arbitral Tribunal or before an arbitrator designated by this Tribunal, that the conditions of sale or measures taken by the Government of the State in question, outside its general legislation, have been unjustly prejudicial to the price), that "the Tribunal or the arbitrator may accord to the successful litigant an equitable indemnity which must be paid by the said State"; and (2) the granting of the necessary facilities to those inhabitants of territory ceded to Yugoslavia (Tsaribrod, Bossiliagrad, and Strumnitza) who have voted in favour of Bulgarian nationality for the exploitation or administration of their property by the mediation of agents, Art. 40 of the Treaty, which obliges them to emigrate, leaving them "free to keep immovable property which they possess on the territory of the other State or had in their domicile anterior to their voting."

The Agrarian-Communist Movement.

The Agrarian Communist movement broke out suddenly, but in reality it was not unexpected. It can even be said that it proceeded directly from the *coup d'état* of June 9. On the fall of Stambolisky the Bulgarian Communists, faithful to their policy of active collaboration with the Agrarians, tried in many places, and notably at Plevna, to help their allies by arms to regain their lost power, this time under the form of an open coalition which would give to the country a Cabinet composed of representatives of both parties. Unsuccessful in attaining their end by this method, the Communists, wise in their generation, immediately changed their tactics and began a feverish propaganda among the more advanced Agrarians to cement the union and to prepare the masses for their bid for power—propaganda which was strangely facilitated by the action of the Government, which lost precious time in trying to form a political group of the old constitutional *bloc* without in any way taking care to explain its action to the peasants, thus left to the prey of Communistic propaganda. But when the Agrarian-Communist union was sufficiently advanced the Communists and the Agrarians were faced with a difficult problem—namely, whether they should climb to power legally, that is to say, by the elections—in which they had a splendid chance of success, and by which they could have gained all that they dreamed of without exposing the country to grievous shocks—or whether they should launch a revolution, which, though it was risky and was bound to cause bloodshed, would give them the power they desired more quickly. On this point both the Communists and the Agrarians were divided; the more impatient and impetuous, strongly supported by the Executive Committee of Moscow, were in favour of revolution; the more moderate preferred an electoral struggle. They could not completely agree, and stopped at a compromise which allowed the two sections to carry on their respective preparations each in its own direction.

The Government, which was aware of these preparations, had to choose between preventive action and patiently waiting to see which party would get the upper hand. But it, too, had to reckon with impetuous counsellors—that is to say,

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the military, who carried the day. On September 12, after a meeting of three, where the President of the Council, M. Zankoff, the Minister of War, General Bolkoff, and the Minister of the Interior, General Rousseff, examined the situation, the conclusion was reached that delay was no longer wise, and the Government ordered the arrest of more than a thousand Communists, including all the leaders. The important Agrarians were also arrested, as a precautionary measure. The glove was now thrown down. Communists and Agrarians did not hesitate, and on September 20 the revolutionary movement broke out, with all the horrors of revolution in its train. It was rapidly and cruelly suppressed, but people here are still discussing whether it was the impending revolution that provoked the arrests by the Government, or whether, on the contrary, it was the application of the Government's decree that provoked the revolution. This question will not be answered for a long time.

The movement started in the department of Stara-Zagora, whence it passed into that of Bourgas and Philippopolis, thence to spread into the departments of Vratza and of Vidin, notably in the districts of Berkovitza and of Ferdinandovo, that is to say, that the revolution, proclaimed for the establishment of the Soviet Republic and the formation of a peasant and workman Government, was only waged in the regions where the Agrarians, more than the Communists even, had kept their force intact. Moreover, during the whole week the revolution lasted, stifled in one spot only to break out in another, it has been possible to see peasants alone, whether Communist or Agrarian, exposing themselves to death in this struggle against a Government which, they had been told, was formed and supported by warmongers, and chiefly by those officers who had from 1915 to 1918 exposed them to the enemies' fire, to run them finally into a catastrophe, in which all the national dreams and the well-being of the people had foundered; workmen, on the other hand, were not to be seen at the barricades fighting for the social revolution. The conclusion can therefore be drawn that, although the movement was directed by the Communists, with the active participation of malcontent Agrarians, there was no attempt in reality to introduce Communism into Bulgaria, but rather to destroy the work of the *coup d'état* in upsetting the Government and putting in its place an Agrarian-Communist Government which could make itself acceptable to, or at least tolerated by, neighbouring States, in particular Yugoslavia, and thus avoid an invasion which would have been inevitable had the Communists alone seized the reins of power.

However, the plan miscarried, thanks to the energy of the Government, and above all to the abstention of the great majority of the rural population, which did not wish to launch out into any bloody adventure. Agrarians and Communists are now definitely crushed, and it will take years and years for them to recover, if ever they do recover, from the recent blow. But at what a price this result has been obtained! Thousands of men have been killed, whole villages have been destroyed, and hundreds and hundreds of millions lira have been lost in the havoc caused by the sanguinary repression.

THE PERSIA SOCIETY.

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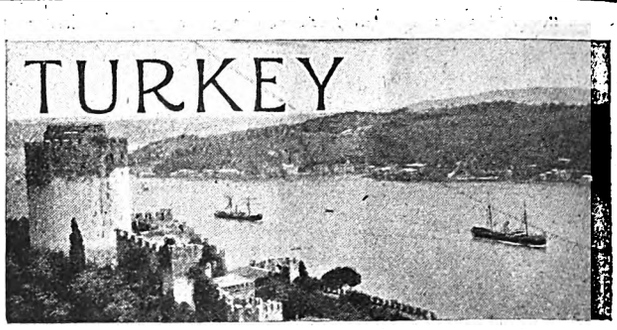

Constantinople, October 2.

New Worlds for Old.

To-day marks the end of the Allied Occupation of Constantinople, which has lasted since November, 1918, a period of nearly five years. During the past week the progressive reduction of the Allied Forces has appeared much more obvious, until during the last few days such clear signs of the end were afforded by the abolition of the familiar sentry at G.H.Q. and the almost complete absence of Allied troops in the streets. The various farewell functions have begun to pall, and now that the army's departure is so near most of us who are not sentimentally inclined will be glad to see the end of the *tamasha* and the beginning of the heavily advertised Nationalist régime, in order to be able to make up our minds, on the basis of practical experience, concerning the efficiency and justice of the National Government.

There are two questions of prime importance as far as Constantinople is concerned: first, the maintenance of public order, and second, the establishment of an efficient, incorruptible administration.

Public Order.

The maintenance of public order is a serious problem, and the more nervous members of the population view with considerable apprehension the irruption of 12,000 Anatolian troops of the Third Army Corps on Saturday next. The spectre of Smyrna floats before their eyes, and alarmist rumours concerning the possibility of the impotence of constituted authority in face of the troubles which may be fomented by the presence of the Anatolian soldiery are already rampant. This fear cannot be too lightly dismissed, and everyone will be greatly relieved if the next fortnight goes off without a serious disturbance. There is no doubt that since the substitution of the Sultan's autocracy in Turkey by the pseudo-democratic authority of the Grand National Assembly the bonds of discipline in the army, gendarmerie, and police have been appreciably loosened, and, although the leaders of the new Turkey are undoubtedly very anxious to show a good face to Europe in the one city where European opinion is not a negligible factor, they realise perfectly well that, when dealing with the military and civil hooligan element the little finger of any Sultan was stronger than their right arm.

The Turkish Bureaucracy.

This brings one to the second point which is seriously preoccupying the Angora leaders, namely, the condition of the Government's bureaucratic machine. Until the present time their clumsy, creaking administrative machinery has had to face nothing worse than the mute, uncomplaining hostility of the Anatolian peasant in his primitive village or township. The relics of Smyrna have spasmodically squealed under its rough tortures, but now it has to deal with an eloquently plaintive population of well over a million in a town which knows something about civilisation. If the central autocracy of the Sultans were still in operation, few complaints would be publicly aired, and everything would settle down quietly to the good old system of procrastinating, easy-going, and *back-*

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sheesh, but now people have grown restive, and demand the fulfilment of the extravagant promises on which they have long been fed. It is a commonplace to state that the lower ranks of the Turkish bureaucracy are more corrupt than they have ever been, and that the appeal from the utterly ignorant and incompetent junior official to his superiors is much less efficacious now, owing to the breakdown of real discipline in the administration and the pervading influence of this painful travesty of democracy from which Turkey is now suffering. The officials of all grades are now chosen, not for their knowledge and experience, but for their services in the so-called War of Independence. The result is that both the Treasury and the private individual are shamelessly defrauded, the former of its just revenues and the latter of his just rights. The Constantinople Customs House is a sink of iniquity, where no business can be put through in reasonable time without shameless bribery. Also, it is a current practice to arrange by means of a certain contribution in "palm-oil" that an official receipt for an amount due for "temettu" (a form of income-tax) twenty times as large as the tip be secured. What can be the system of accountancy in the Government departments which will allow of such practices? It is no wonder that the local Press pours such scorn upon Hassan Fehmi's surplus of fifteen millions during the last financial year.

This is harsh criticism, but it is deserved, and is merely a repetition of what the intelligent Turk is himself openly saying in print. Such criticism is already bearing fruit, for it has brought about the resignation of the Minister of National Economy and his replacement by Hassan Bey, one of the Turkish delegates to Lausanne, who is credited with the intention of throwing overboard all the specious nonsense about the creation of a Turkish civilisation on new lines, and of inviting the fullest collaboration of foreign specialists in bringing the internal administrative machinery of Turkey into line with modern European standards.

Angora or Constantinople?

The influence of Constantinople is thus seen to be leavening the mass, and it would not be over bold to prophesy that within a comparatively short space of time we shall see the capital brought back to Constantinople, notwithstanding the recent declarations of Mustapha Kemal Pasha to a representative of the *Neue Freie Presse*. It is significant that a strong current of opposition to the proposed credit of £T114,000 for the building of a new House of Assembly in Angora is manifesting itself within the ranks of the Popular Party.

Constitutional Questions.

Another important political question which is at present in the forefront of the battle is that of the Turkish Constitution. A project for stabilising the form of the Constitution and presenting a new constitutional charter for the approval of the Assembly is now being discussed by the People's Party. One point seems to be decided—namely, that the Government will be both in name and in form republican. Discussion is rife, however, on the question of the title and attributes of the President or head of the State, concerning the length of his term of office and his relations with the Assembly and individual political parties. The main object to be achieved appears to be the appointment of Mustapha Kemal Pasha to a permanent position outside the vicissitudes of party changes, but, to judge by the inspired comments of well-informed papers, the project does not quite satisfy this principle, for it combines the offices of President of the Republic with that of President of the National Assembly. Another constitutional principle which appears to be envisaged in the proposed modifications is that to which reference has been made on several previous occasions—namely, the separation of the legislative and executive functions which are at present combined in the Assembly to the obvious detriment of efficient government. The present proposals provide that the Assembly will sit for only five months in the year with purely legislative functions, and that the Executive will be under the control of Ministers responsible to the Prime Minister and the Assembly. During the Assembly's vacations the control of the Executive will be in the hands of a kind of enlarged Cabinet, consisting of the Ministers reinforced by the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Assembly, plus certain Parliamentary Commissions. What the solution of the problem will be will not be known until the Bill comes before the Assembly in its final form.

Russian Refugees.

The position of the Russian refugees of the "White" persuasion who still remain in Constantinople is likely to become extremely delicate, especially as a Soviet mission has arrived stating that its object is to arrange for the repatriation of refugees here. Inquiries made by one paper concerning the views of the authorities on the situation of these refugees elicited the statement that Russians, in order to remain in Turkey, must either be subjects of a State whose existence is recognised by Turkey, or become Turkish subjects. This is practically equivalent to a demand that Russians should possess Soviet papers, and, *ipso facto*, abolishes the validity of League of Nations passports and of those issued by the anti-Bolshevist diplomatic mission which has been functioning in the Russian Embassy here since 1919. One cannot help sympathising with the desire of the Turks to take a clear line on the subject of Russian politictl dissensions, but one sincerely hopes that they will act up to their professed sentiments of friendliness for the Russians, and will not take hasty, ill-considered administrative measures which will inflict avoidable hardship on these poor people.

October 9.

The End of One Order.

The past week has been very eventful. The Allied Troops have completely evacuated Turkish territory, the Turkish Army has formally entered Constantinople, the Œcumenical Patriarchate has caved in at the first appearance of a sort of envoy from Angora, and the Dry Régime has been established here.

To take things in chronological order: The final ceremony of evacuation took place on Tuesday last, October 2. All the troops, with the exception of small detachments, had been on board either the Somali or the Arabic ever since the previous Friday, but an impressive ceremony had been arranged for Tuesday at 11.30 a.m., to say farewell to the Allied Generals. British, French, Italian, and Turkish detachments took part in the parade, which drew a large crowd both of natives and Europeans. The ceremony, which included reciprocal salutes of the Turkish and Allied flags, went off with considerable *éclat*, and the final adieux showed that personal relations between the more prominent personages had already become, if not cordial, at any rate friendly.

The Press comments after the evacuation varied according to the personal feelings and financial predilections of the various papers. The muckrake was pretty liberally used by a number of the incompetent inkslingers who call themselves jour-

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nalists in this country, but the men of good standing have written some just and reasonable appreciations of the Armistice period and its attendant evils; but all of them seem to be labouring under the delusion that Turkey occupies a pre-eminent place in the minds of the statesmen of Western Europe, and that Turkey's "victory" over the whole of European civilisation is the one obsession and topic of conversation throughout the world. The idea is excusable, but very ludicrous.

Entry of the Turkish Army.

The arrival on Saturday last of part of the Third Army Corps under Shukri Naili Pasha was celebrated with much junketing. The street decorations, the fêting of the troops, the popular enthusiasm were all very well carried out, and public order was excellently well maintained, thanks to the great efficiency of the city police, whose good qualities and discipline I have had occasion to mention previously. The troops arrived from the Asiatic side and landed at Stamboul in the morning to the accompaniment of deafening salvoes from ships' whistles and sirens. After numerous ceremonies of reception and a feast in Gulhane Park, a part marched through Pera to the barracks at Tash Kishla and Matchka, where they are to be quartered, and the Corps H.Q. is established at Harbic, late British G.H.Q., which had been left by us in an excellent condition ready for occupation. Considerable apprehension had been felt by all the quiet, law-abiding elements of the population, Moslems and Christians alike, concerning the possibility of disorders fomented by the *bas-fonds*, such as the National Defence organisations, the Lazes, and other more or less uncivilised and fanatical malcontents. It is pleasing to be able to record that with the exception of one or two minor incidents the behaviour of the populace would have done credit to a London crowd, and whenever a local incident looked like developing in an ugly fashion an adequate force of police was at once on the scene and dealt most expeditiously with the affair.

Extreme Acts.

Everything points to a temporary recrudescence of extreme Chauvinism, combined with a feeble attempt to reduce Constantinople to the rank of a "dependence" of Angora. The new Director of Police, Assim Bey, has suddenly decreed total prohibition at twenty-four hours' notice, notwithstanding the strong opposition, led by Turks, on economic grounds, which has manifested itself when the proposal was previously mooted. Our only consolation is that everyone appears certain that it will not last long, and that the application of the measure must be regarded as an attempt by the authorities to show that they are doing something to justify their existence. Also, after a very tiring couple of days, the unfortunate police force was engaged all day yesterday going round the main streets of Pera abolishing posters and notices expressed in any language but Turkish, because, forsooth, the sight of foreign languages inflames the passions of the patriotic populace—at least that is the prefect's explanation of the matter. Next, the various business houses and public services are going to be forced to discharge a large proportion of their non-Moslem staff to make room for Moslem personnel. Already the very efficient tramway service appears to have suffered from the change, for during the past week one has noticed a number of tatterdemalion incompetents acting as conductors, so one is getting somewhat restive at having to furnish ocular demonstrations four times in ten minutes that one has paid one's fare.

The Patriarchate.

The recent events at the Patriarchate, where Papa Eftimi made an entry, accompanied by a number of Turkish companions, on Tuesday last before the Allied troops had left the town, is an event of serious portent for the future of that ancient institution. The Turkish delegates, who do not appear to have thought it worth while to justify their action by producing any kind of authority, simply kicked out all the representatives of dioceses outside the new Turkey, forced the remainder to sign a document declaring the destitution of the Patriarch Meletios, and thus with one stroke abolished the Œcumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople.

Straws in the Wind.

Many other developments in every department of life are taking place, all of which are intended to demonstrate that untrammelled Turkish power has come to stay. The new director of the Press, Zekeria Bey, has arrived, and announced that the whole news service of the country has been taken over by the Anatolian Agency, and that the services of the Turquie-Havas-Reuter Agency are to be dispensed with.

I spare you any further details this week, but there is a very pretty little storm blowing up owing to the alleged neglect shown by the Constantinople authorities to a delegation from the National Assembly on the occasion of the entry of the national troops.

THE SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of the Scottish Women's Hospitals Association of the Royal Free Hospital, three lectures have been arranged on behalf of the endowment of a memorial bed to the British Macedonian Expeditionary Force. They are respectively:—October 24, at 5.30, Mrs. Beauchamp Tufnell on "A Glimpse of Czecho-Slovakia," at Argyll House, 211, King's Road, Chelsea; October 31, at 5.30, Mr. Walter de la Mare on "Atmosphere in Fiction," at 39, Wimpole Street, W.1; and November 6, at 5.30, Mr. John Slater on "The Strand and the Adelphi," at the Royal Society of Arts, 18, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2. Tickets for three lectures are £1, single tickets 7s. 6d., payable on application to Miss Willis, Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

THE VISIT OF M. KALFOFF.

The Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Christo Kalfoff, paid a visit to London from October 10 to October 13. On October 11, accompanied by the Bulgarian Minister, he was received at the Foreign Office by Lord Curzon. The Bulgarian Minister, M. Stancioff, gave a luncheon party last Thursday at the Legation in honour of the Bulgarian Mission, and a reception on Friday afternoon from five to seven, at which were present, amongst many others: Sir Arthur Peel, the Albanian Minister, Mr. Noel Buxton, Mr. Simeon Radeff, Mr. Leland Buxton, Mr. Gooch, Mr. Montague Bell, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Philip Baker, Professor Toynbee, Colonel Napier, Mr. Hugh Spender, Major Cumberbatch, the Hon. Mrs. Wood, Mr. Charles Woods, Mr. Nevinson, M. Kyroff, M. and Mme. Christoff, Mlle. Bontcheff, Mlle. Ganeff, M. Papazoff, M. Mintcheff, M. Marriage, M. Petroff-Tchonakoff, Mlle. Stancioff, Mlle. F. Stancioff, the Staff of the Bulgarian Legation, the members of the Bulgarian Colony, and many friends.

On Saturday morning the Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, accompanied by M. Stancioff, deposited a wreath on the tomb of Mr. Gladstone and a wreath on the tomb of Lord Salisbury at Westminster Abbey. He then at 11 left London for Bulgaria, via Rome. At Victoria Station he was seen off by Mr. Monck, representing Lord Curzon, the Bulgarian Minister, the staff of the Bulgarian Legation, and many English and Bulgarian friends.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 18 (New Style).
October 5 (Old Style).
Rabia 7, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Cheshvan 8, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The King received Colonel the Maharaja of Alwar at Buckingham Palace last Thursday.

The Afghan Minister has returned to London from Paris.

Almina Countess of Carnarvon has left London for Scotland.

Sir Wilfrid Atlay left London last Friday in the P. and O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind for India.

Sir Cyril Jackson sailed for Bombay on October 12 by the P. and O. steamer Kaisar-i-Hind.

M. Yovan Yovanovitch, the Serbian Consul-General, left London last week for Belgrade.

Dr. Naji el Assil, the representative of King Faisal, has taken up his residence at the Hyde Park Hotel.

Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, returned to London on October 10 from Paris.

Captain Geoffry Crawshay left England last Thursday for India and the East, and will be away for a year. Letters addressed to White's Club will be forwarded.

Sir Benjamin Faudel-Phillips, Bart., left England last Thursday for India and the East, and does not expect to return until the autumn of next year. Letters will be forwarded.

M. Constantin Fotitch, First Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on October 10 for Vienna, on leave. He was accompanied by Mme. Fotitch.

Major-General Sir Torquhil Matheson, accompanied by Lady Elizabeth Matheson, left for India last week in the P. and O. steamship Mooltan in order to resume command of the Waziristan Field Force on the expiration of his leave.

Under the auspices of the East India Association, Sir Alexander Gordon Cardew, K.C.S.I., will read a paper on "Indian Prisons and the Indian Prison Committee," at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, on October 22, at 3.30 p.m. Sir Edward R. Henry, Bart., will preside.

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington, who last Thursday returned to London after his long stay in Turkey in command of the Allied troops, was on Saturday morning received in audience by the King at Buckingham Palace, relinquishing his appointment as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Allied Forces of Occupation, Turkey.

The Duke of York will be attended during his visit to Belgrade for the Royal christening, and for the wedding of Prince Paul of Serbia, by the Serbian cavalry and staff officer Colonel Nikola Christitch, grandson of "Iron-handed Christitch," a former Prime Minister of Serbia. The Duke and Duchess of York leave to-day for Belgrade.

The christening of the infant son and heir of Sir Edward and Lady Boyle took place on October 14 at Holy Trinity, Hurst Green, Sussex. The vicar of the parish and the Rev. A. G. Rogers, Rector of Gatton, officiated, and the child was named Edward Charles Gurney. M. Dimitri Stancioff, the Bulgarian Minister, was one of the godparents.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack (Governor-General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army) had an audience of the King at Buckingham Palace last Friday, when His Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division).

Vice-Admiral Jackson, K.B.E., C.B., M.V.O., who has been placed on the Retired List at his own request, to date October 7, was last employed in command of the Egypt and Red Sea Division of the Mediterranean Squadron, from July, 1917, to January, 1919. He held the post of Director of the Intelligence Division of the Naval War Staff during 1912-13, and was Director of the Operations Division from 1912 to 1913.

A meeting was held at the Y.W.C.A. headquarters on October 10 to plan the World Exhibition to be held at the Central Hall, Westminster, on November 7 and 8. Lady Walton, wife of the South African High Commissioner, is organising the African section, Lady Flinders Petrie is responsible for Egypt, and Miss Stancioff, the first woman diplomat in Europe, for Bulgaria.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1923.

DRAWING BLANK IN PALESTINE.

From whatever angle the present *impasse* in Palestine be viewed, the position must be considered unsatisfactory. Affairs have proceeded as neither the Arabs nor the Jews nor the British liberators themselves hoped, and the prospect of reconciliation is, generally speaking, remote. In isolated places, it is true, Arab and Jew have drawn and pulled together as they did in the days before the War, and it is possible that such examples of co-operation may be here and there repeated; but of any wide scheme or attempt to live in amity and with mutual respect of each other there is as yet no trace. The British Government itself looks over the problem with gloomy eyes; all that the Colonial Secretary in his speech to the Imperial Conference the other day could suggest was the hope, pious but thin, that Arab manifestations of discontent would cease. Neither are the Jews satisfied. Emigration from Palestine has recently increased; in some cases Jews have, for lack of work, returned from the land of hope back to the lands of despair whence they came. Their larger schemes of development have almost all, for one reason or another, been held up, though the flourish with which they commenced promised better things. The major part of Mr. Rutenberg's plans are still far from realisation; although a certain amount has been done at Jaffa, nothing, so far as we know, has been done in the Jordan—work in which is of the utmost and urgent importance to Palestine as a whole. The foundation-stone of the University of Mount Scopus is still bare, calling on the unheeding world for bricks. Turning from the material to the spiritual side, we have no less an authority than Dr. McInnes, the Bishop in Jerusalem, saying recently that Zionism in Palestine has since the Armistice produced no single lofty act. It is cruel, indeed, that circumstances should first have intensified and then have degraded the high ideals of various Zionists. And of Arab disappointment it is surely superfluous to speak: the Arabs are in perpetual discontent and opposition to the Administration. The time has gone by when their antagonism could plausibly be explained by instigation from outside, drill by hot-headed leaders, and so forth; it is better to recognise quietly that they are as a race and in essentials no more reconciled to the British plan of developing Palestine than they were three years ago.

Our excellent Administration, of course, knows all this only too well, and in its unhappy knowledge turns desperately to expedient after expedient in order to palliate the feelings and to gain the goodwill of the Arabs. It tried hard to get Arabs to sit on an Advisory Council; more recently it endeavoured to persuade the Arabs of the desirability of forming an Arab Agency, on the lines of the Zionist Organisation, the recognised Jewish Agency provided for by the Mandate. This Agency was to be a body advising and co-operating with the Administration on social and economic matters affecting Arab interest, its design being to demonstrate to the Arabs the determination and desire of the British Government to afford equality of treatment and of privilege as between Jew and Arab. How high were the hopes placed on the formation of such an Agency may be judged by Sir Herbert Samuel's remark that it was regarded officially as "a very great advance in the direction of meeting the wishes of the Arab population," and that "it should be accepted as a settlement of the points in controversy." But disillusionment followed very quickly. In the shortest time the Arabs made up their minds unanimously to reject the Government's offer, their decision being formed by representatives of all sections of opinion. This decision, however, cannot have been unexpected. For the gentlest and least interested observer could hardly fail to notice the irregularity of setting up last an institution to protect the interests of the mass of the population: on grounds of pride alone the belated and enforced idea of an Arab Agency would have been rejected. Expedients such as this are, in fact, useless, and serve only to recall to the Arabs and to the world generally the anomaly of the whole position in Palestine. Better by far calmly and without such ostentatious proclamations to continue in the administration of justice as the British conceive it: Palestine must for the present forgo the democratic fabric of political life. To advertise the spectacle of the greatest Empire in the world fishing with baited hooks and the fish never rising is absurd.

In writing thus we are very far from wishing to harass the Government in its extremely difficult and delicate problem of Palestine. We realise fully that Great Britain is in Palestine "for good," as one says, among other reasons, for the legitimate and essential purpose of defending the Suez Canal. Everyone with an eye on the European and Asiatic future can see that our position on the Canal will not always be acquiesced in as now it is, and that with the weakening of our defence of it from the Egyptian side we must correspondingly strengthen it from the Palestine side. Great Britain will, it is perfectly certain, continue to dispense even-handed justice in whatever circumstance she may be placed, but there is no obvious need to keep tempers smouldering and to remind the world of the difficulties in which she has placed herself. Palestine is a problem which cannot be denied, one over which much idealism has been, and more yet will be, blunted; but since our policy so obviously—for there is none other short of deliberately breaking our pledged word—is to let time solve it—well; let time solve it, and dispense with these attempts, foredoomed to failure, to anticipate the wisdom of that unknown Master. Time is on our side, for it is always on the side of the Power with the longest arm; and so long as Britain preserves in Palestine, as she has so far admirably preserved, her sense of fair dealing, there is little room for worry and abundant room for hope. But raking up the past and haggling over the Balfour Declaration and Britain's promises to the Arabs are entirely futile in the present state of the Palestinian temper; fewer reminders of the past are necessary. This con-

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tinual drawing blank, moreover, which befalls the Administration of Palestine, not only renders the position ridiculous to Palestinians, it fatigues the people of this country. In the long run—and Palestine is one of the few countries which emphatically belong to the long run—it is the British tax-payer who is to determine British conduct in Palestine, and if repeated evidence is brought before him of the impossibility of reconciling the Arabs, his animosity will turn, not against those Arabs, but against the statesmen who persist in expedients born of and to failure. But tell the taxpayer that Britain is in Palestine in British interests, and he will, so long as he does not hear that his money is being spent on them, tolerate the most idealistic schemes. In the meantime, it is scarcely open to doubt that the Arab-Jew enmity will ultimately and in its own unhurried time be worn out by the ceaseless dropping of British justice upon it.

A TRAGEDY IN STONE.

Concluded.

By THEO MOGHABGHAB.

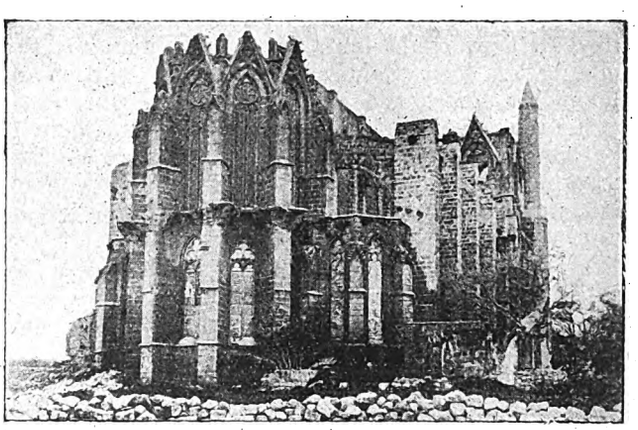
[*For the illustrations in our last issue and in this, we are indebted to the courtesy of Mr. Roland L. Michell.*—Ed.]

Living up to its tragic rôle, the Church all but caused fresh trouble some decades ago, when a Greek professor at the head of a band of touring students delivered a speech in the cathedral close. In eloquent terms he pointed out to his companions that every single stone in the great pile facing them was cemented by the blood of their forefathers. These words were construed by some Turkish bystanders as intended to rouse the irridentist passions of their Greek fellow-countrymen, and to make them work for a restoration of the church to Christian worship. "Christian," be it noted, means in Cyprus and in the greater part of the Orthodox world, including the Balkans and Russia, the Greek-Orthodox persuasion. Strange to say the Turks of yore seem to have silently encouraged this view, and when they chose to mete out to Christians the toleration enjoined by the Koran, they were apt to give the preference to the Eastern Churches, a fact which they failed not to forget when they invaded the island and saw that the prestige and privileges of the Greek hierarchy, which the latter had lost during the Frankish occupation, were restored to it.

But to return. The wires between Famagusta and Nicosia, where the leading Turkish community resides, started buzzing. On the following morning the populace of that town rubbed its eyes at the unaccustomed sight of a Turkish "demonstration," beflagged and bebannered, wending its way towards Government House on the hill outside—the same height upon which Cœur de Lion is said to have once pitched his camp—to submit its complaint. Feeling amongst the Turks was running high and the atmosphere became somewhat sultry. The eloquent and "all erudite" professor explained, on being hauled up by the British authorities, that by "blood" of the Cypriots' forbears he only meant the *corvée* and other methods of forced labour which the Franks had imposed on the Greek inhabitants. Thus ended without incident the first and so far only known Turkish demonstration in British Cyprus, which might have had more unpleasant results. Only, ever since then, entrance to the mosques is not so much encouraged unless the visitor is chaperoned by a written authority of the officials of the "Pious Foundations," or is known to the caretakers.

It may be that among the lower classes of the Cypriot Greeks there lurks a dim memory that the Church was in bygone ages "Christian," and, therefore, could have been nothing else but "Greek-Christians"; but I doubt whether those that know of its Frankish origin would turn to look at it twice. For such still is the aversion that has filtered through the centuries for the Franks and their hierarchy, an aversion that had its roots in the persistent attempts of Rome in olden days to foist her creed on the stiff-necked Greeks who could never forget that they came of an Imperial race, "*the first of all nations*," and belonged to the one and only "Orthodox Church of Christ." Though Cyprus reached its apogee under the Frankish domination, the islanders still look back to that epoch with loathing. They can forget and forgive the pall-like rule of the Mohammedan Turk, but never the golden chains of the Christian Frank!

Perhaps some of them view with awe the intricacies of Gothic sacred architecture, and here and there a master mason may copy a traceried window as a *tour de force*, but one doubts whether



FAMAGUSTA CATHEDRAL.

their religious emotions are stirred one jot; for what mysticism they know is symbolized in the basilica, while in the hearts of their religious leaders is indelibly graved the image of the great mother of all basilicas, that of Holy Wisdom—now also crowned with minarets.

But what of the Moslem worshipper? Does he, like the visitor from foreign parts, perceive the incongruity of the union of minaret and Pointed Gothic? Surely it must be a great riddle to him, for he, too, has accepted for good the Byzantine Basilica as the ideal of sacred building. In that respect Christian Greek and Moslem Turk are brothers.

Mention of *corvée* recalls to mind the following story. During the Frankish occupation building operations were going on on a large scale. One day among a large band of workers, who were groaning under the yoke of forced labour—not improbably in connection with the erection of a church—a woman caused much scandal by the indecorous manner in which she held up her skirts. The king, happening to be out inspecting, suddenly appeared, and, on catching sight of him, she lowered her garment quickly, crouching down on her haunches in deepest modesty, but no sooner was he gone than she sprang up again in her unabashed manner. The amazed bystanders thereupon inquired why she felt shy when the king passed by, whereas throughout the day she had so brazenly exposed her limbs to the gaze of all and sundry.

"Ah," she replied with withering scorn, "I sat down because I saw a *man*!"

These words lashed the crowd to fury, and rushing forward they attacked and slew hundreds of their hated Frankish masters.

Where are now the hands that toiled so hard—those that laboured for the glory of God, or those

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that slaved for fear of the overseer's rod? Where are the men that looked with pride on their handiwork and built as if unto eternity? Utterly vanished, and with them all the glory that was! They have been succeeded by a race that is as appreciative of their works as the spiders in an art gallery are appreciative of the value of a Velasquez or a Botticelli.

Where princely mansions reared themselves proudly, now cluster some wretched mud hovels. The once impregnable ramparts are now the habitations of foxes, crows and owls, of lizards and beggars. Until yesterday the frescoed churches served as camel stables and sheepholds, as eloquently the dung-covered floors and the ubiquitous fleas witness. In the streets which once glittered with mediæval pomp and colour now move a few sallow-looking Turks or Greeks, whose physique and spleen have not improved by their descent from countless generations of malaria-ridden ancestors; heedless spoilers who would willingly sell every single cut stone that has survived of this once renowned mart as they have not hesitated to sell away all they could lay their hands upon for the building of Port Said and a goodly portion of Alexandria across the sea; men whose unconcern for the mediæval monuments that surround them is like that of the mouse that sees in a priceless Persian carpet nothing beyond good material for cutting up for his own puny needs. That is all that is left of the glory that was!

Yet, above the wide spaces of chill desolation and ruin, above the host of crumbling churches, remnants of the three hundred and sixty-six that Famagusta is reputed to have once possessed, above the grim fortress walls, above the monuments that conjure up a phantasmagoria of vanished worlds, still rises with tranquil grandeur the old Crusader cathedral.

It has been a silent witness to scenes of mystic pageantry, and of carnage and horror. It has seen Crusaders, Genoese, Venetians, Turks, and now the British, pass under its shadow. From the stupendous heights of the Land Gate which was raised up by Genoese hands, stretches before the spectator far away and round the city, bastion after bastion of Venetian handiwork. The Cathedral itself is capped by a Mohammedan steeple, and behind it, towards the East, lies the modern quay built by the British, alongside which berth craft so utterly different from what the church knew in its infancy. Though battered and worn, it towers amidst these motley monuments, which testify to the divers conquests which Famagusta has undergone, with a peculiar insistence at being there. Like an aristocrat it looks down upon the parvenus surrounding it with unchanging repose and serene pride, though its life has been interwoven with tragedy and tears—tears in which myriads of human beings have indulged.

In size it does not compare with Westminster, Notre Dame, Rheims, and the host of other renowned Gothic fanes, but it surpasses them all in the glamour that clings to it. There is an ineffable fascination in the fact that this fane, which once rallied round it the chivalry of Europe in the mystical bond of the Religion of Pure Love, should stand on the soil that was beforetimes dedicated to Venus, whose shrines drew men of all hues and tongues to join in the cult of unbridled Carnal Love.

The best time to view the cathedral is in the afternoon, when the light of the westering sun hits its façade, and when, in the poetic light of evening, most buildings take on their best aspect. At such a moment the monks of old would be wending their way to vespers, and the bells from all the belfries of the forest of churches would be calling to peace and worship. The mellow tones would reach the ships in the harbour, and many a bold captain would make haste to pay his respects to St. Nicholas, the patron saint of mariners, hoping to circumvent the fickle tempestuous sea.

If it was a *festa* the great church would be converted into a fluttering mass of embroidered banners, and the streets with their many-coloured throngs would put on more than ever their likeness to a flower garden. Probably not elsewhere in Christendom would be found such a variety of Christians, externally or internally. If it was Corpus Christi Day the visitor of those days would meet with the strange experience of beholding all the sects of Christianity mingling in one great procession. He would particularly note the funereal mien and garb of the women, and a pious feeling would echo in his heart when he was told that the ladies of Famagusta had donned this costume in perpetual memory of the fall of Acre.

Our musings are suddenly disturbed by a sound. What is it? It is the voice of the muezzin calling the "Faithful" to prayer. The "True Believers" assemble within the once pictured walls which are now of a uniform tint of whitewash. The gorgeous glass in the windows and the frescoes on the columns have vanished, and the "dim-lit altars and jewelled shrines" and all the trappings of a Christian place of worship are to be sought in vain. Instead, you will find broken sculptured pavements, beautiful carpets, a few lamps and so on, the names of the Khalifs, and a not unpleasing simplicity—the simplicity that befits the Religion of the Desert.

"Come to prayer, come to prayer. There is no God but God, and Mohammed is his prophet. There is no God but God."

Truly Mohammed had chosen well when he gave preference to the human voice, eschewing bells as the invention of devils, and nowhere can it be more appreciated than in an old-world oriental town that is innocent of the roar and traffic of modern cities. Four years' residence in the shadow of a tall, noisy belfry that was so conscientious in calling out the matins has made a convert of the writer to the muezzin—when he is endowed with a sympathetic voice!

We stand spell-bound as we listen to the slow cadences floating from aloft into Crusading Famagusta and far away, but under the measured, modulated notes we catch now a hint of pathos, now a lurking throb of fierceness—the fierceness of the Desert Sun.

The last ray has set and the southern dusk is quickly creeping up, the evening breeze has started fanning our cheeks, the lights in the little square in front of the cathedral are being hastily lit in preparation for the crowd that will soon be trickling in to sip coffee and while away the evening. Recollecting there is such a thing as dinner we interrupt our musings and turn our back on the fane that has bestirred our imagination and conjured up such a host of mournful memories, wondering how much more has the Whirligig of Time in store for this Tragedy in Stone.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE BAHAI CULT.

"BAHA'U'LLAH AND THE NEW SOCIAL ERA." By J. E. Esslemont, M.B. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 8s. 6d. net.)

The Nineteenth Century found Persia sunk into a depth of degradation from which she has not yet emerged. Her central government was weak and corrupt, brigandage flourished, education scarcely existed, and sanitation was unknown. Most of the Shah's subjects were fanatical Shiahs, but they had split into many warring sects, which united only to persecute the Christians, Jews, and Zoroastrians. Yet spiritual life was not extinct in the decadent empire. In the Tenth Century a form of mysticism had taken root which was probably inspired by the tenets of Buddhism. Its adherents, termed "Sufis," from their woollen garb, sought deliverance from fleshly passions through asceticism and contemplation, in order that their souls might return, purged of earthly dross, to the Creator from Whom they had emanated. In common with the downtrodden masses, the Sufis eagerly awaited the advent of a Prophet who should bring happiness and peace to a distracted world. The time was ripe for the appearance of one of those men of genius who change the entire current of a nation's destiny. In 1817 Mirza 'Ali Mohammed was born in Shiraz, the son of a well-to-do merchant. After years of meditation and study he came forward in 1844 as the Báb—literally, "door," or the channel of grace and forerunner of One who possessed boundless perfections. Attended by a band of devoted followers, he made the obligatory pilgrimage to Mecca, and there declared his divine mission. The new gospel spread like wildfire through the Shah's dominions, exciting the keenest alarm among orthodox Muslims. The Bábis, as his followers were styled, endured untold hardships, and their leader was publicly executed at Tabriz in 1850. But persecution which stops short at the extermination of dissidents invariably defeats its object. Among the Báb's disciples was a youth named Mirzá Hussayn 'Ali, the son of a Minister of State. Abandoning brilliant worldly prospects, he boldly espoused the movement, assumed the title of "Bahá'u'llah" (i.e., "The Glory of God"), and became its most powerful exponent. In 1852 an attempt made on Shah Nasr-ed-Din's life by a young Bábi served as an excuse for relentless persecution. Many of Baha'u'llah's adherents suffered a cruel death, and others were cast into durance vile. He, however, was able to prove his innocence, and family influence saved him from sharing their fate. He was exiled to Baghdad, where he soon resumed his life-work with marvellous results. In 1863 he took a momentous step by proclaiming himself the Chosen One, whose coming had been foretold by the Báb, and his followers were thenceforward known as Baháis. The priesthood was infuriated by the success of his mission, and at their instigation the Turkish Government summoned him to Constantinople. Thence he was conducted in strict custody to Adrianople, where one of those schisms occurred to which all new religions are subject. Bahá'u'llah's divine mission was contested by his half-brother, and internal friction arose which forced the Sultan to separate the disputants. Bahá'u'llah and his adherents were banished to Acre, on the Syrian coast, where they were rigorously imprisoned for several years. Some relaxation came in course of time; contributions poured in from converts, and the Master enjoyed comparative affluence. He was visited in 1890 by Professor E. G. Browne, of Cambridge, who was moved to dithyrambics by Bahá'u'llah's magnetic personality:—

> Those piercing eyes seemed to read one's very soul; power and authority sat on that ample brow; while the deep lines on the forehead and face implied an age which the jet-black hair and beard flowing down in indistinguishable luxuriance seemed to belie. No need to ask in whose presence I stood, as I bowed myself before One who is the object of a devotion and love which kings might envy and emperors sigh for in vain!

His teaching was conveyed in a series of remarkable treatises couched in classical Persian. He sometimes spoke humbly as a man who had been charged with a mission from on high; but anon his utterances purported to come from the throne of God. The cult so brilliantly expounded is rather an outlook on life than a religion. Its essentials are the unity of mankind in God and the Brotherhood of all His creatures. It bans asceticism, lays stress on social service, and forbids resistance to tyrannical force.

Bahá'u'llah's mantle fell upon his eldest son, Abbas Effendi, born at Teheran in 1844, who took the modest title "Abdu'l Bahá" ("The Servant of Bahá"), but was afterwards known among his disciples as "The Mystery of God." His succession was, of course, disputed by relatives, whose calumnies led the Turkish Government to confine him to the fortified enceinte of Acre. Assisted by his daughters and volunteer secretaries, he carried on an immense correspondence with inquirers from every country, and set a noble example of devotion to the public weal. On his release from honourable confinement by the Turkish Revolution, he toured through Western Europe and America, addressing crowded congregations everywhere, and returned in 1913 to his home at Haifa. The Great War proved that the world was still stormy soil for the seed of Bahá'u'llah's gospel, but it gave his son an opportunity of showing that he was no mere dreamer of dreams. He grew wheat on an extensive scale, and distributed it among the starving population of Syria. So when Haifa was captured by British and Indian cavalry, Abdu'l Bahá received the fitting reward of a knighthood of the British Empire. He passed away in 1921, worn out by years and excessive labour.

The doctrine preached by these remarkable men has been ably expounded by Dr. Esslemont. Its progress in the West is assured by the plight into which the civilised world has fallen. The foundations of belief in established religion and the entire social order have been sorely shaken, and many anxious souls are blindly groping for guidance. But Baháism can never be aught but an esoteric cult. It offers no reasonable solution of life's enigmas: the quietism which it inculcates must spell failure in the fierce struggle for existence to which all living things are doomed. Bahá'u'llah claimed to speak with the voice of God Himself, and a tendency to deify him is only too apparent in Dr. Esslemont's book; but mystics of his stamp are comparatively rare, and the mass of mankind is too disillusioned to accept a new apotheosis. At p. 161 there is figured a hideous temple of Bahái worship in course of erection near Chicago—a concrete instance of the vulgarity which sullies noble conceptions, and which may discredit an outlook on life possessing great practical value in our age of transition. F. H. S.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Bulgarian Government paid in the first instalment of its Reparation dues on October 1.

Zaghloul Pasha is ill with acute bronchitis, and will probably be unable to undertake any engagements for a week or two.

The National Assembly by a large majority has voted for Angora as the new Turkish capital. There were twenty abstentions.

Many casualties from a fight between two Bedouin tribes, the Khawaled and the Beshakem, have been brought into hospital at Hama, in French Syria.

It is reported from Angora that the committee of the Popular party has decided to adopt the name of "Turkish Republic."

According to the Kabul correspondent of the *Allahabad Pioneer*, Abdullah Khan, formerly Afghan Consul-General in Tashkent, was assassinated on September 1.

Lady Reading's "National Baby Week," to be held in India in January next, has received a great deal of public support, especially from the Indian States.

The Secretary-General of the League of Nations has informed the British Government that the Palestinian mandate entered into force officially on September 29.

According to an Athens message published in Rome, Colonel Botzaris has been superseded by Major Avramidis as Greek delegate on the Albanian Frontier Delimitation Commission.

Official returns show that 58 per cent. of the Egyptian electors voted in the primary elections. The highest percentage—namely, 84—was in Benisuef Province, and the lowest, 24, at Alexandria.

Persian schoolboys, including the son of the Commander of the Eastern Division of the Persian Army, have left Meshed, viâ Russia, for Germany, says Reuter, in order to attend school for three years in Berlin.

The christening of the infant Crown Prince of Serbia has now been definitely fixed for next Monday, the 22nd inst. The marriage of Prince Paul of Serbia to Princess Olga of Greece will take place on the following day.

The Queen, attended by Lady Joan Verney, visited the Arts in Palestine Exhibition at 5, Harrington Road, South Kensington, last Thursday afternoon. Her Majesty purchased several articles, and expressed keen appreciation of all that she had seen.

A solemn Te Deum was celebrated in the Sofia Cathedral on October 3 in connection with the anniversary of the ascension of King Boris to the Throne, and was attended by the King, members of the diplomatic corps, and Cabinet Ministers.

The *London Gazette* states that the Secretary of State for India has approved the grant of a vacant Indian Good Service Pension to Lieutenant-General Sir W. S. Delamain, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., D.S.O., Indian Army (retired), who was until recently Adjutant-General in India.

An Alexandria telegram announces the arrival there on October 14 of the Khedivah-Mother after nine years' absence in Constantinople. After rewarding the crew of the ship in which she had travelled with a month's pay, Her Highness proceeded to Cairo. The Princess is mother of the ex-Khedive and sister-in-law of King Fuad.

The Congress of Greek refugees from Thrace and Asia Minor has adopted a resolution protesting to the Powers and "the whole civilised world" against their expulsion from their homes and against the recognition of rights which do not belong to the victor, on purely Greek territories. Gratitude was also expressed to the United States.

At a recent meeting in London of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Ukrainian Jews, it was decided that a representative of the Federation should proceed to Roumania to investigate the situation of the four thousand refugees in Bessarabia, who were arrested on the Day of Atonement. The Rev. L. Geffen undertook to carry out this mission.

The Times New York correspondent reports that the will of Princess Christopher of Greece, filed in the Surrogate's Court in New York on October 3, leaves the bulk of her estate in trust. The income from the trust is to be divided equally during their lives between her husband, Prince Christopher, and her sister, Margaret Stewart Green, of Montclair, New Jersey. Minor bequests were made to her son, Mr. William Leeds, her daughter-in-law, née Princess Xenia of Russia, and to her niece.

Miss Claire Gaudet, lecturing at the British Museum last Thursday week on recent excavations, referred to the discoveries at Nippur dating from the Fourth Millennium B.C., and to excavations at Ashur and Ur, also dating from that period. She said that hieroglyphics first fell into disuse in the earliest Christian times, and stated that during the last year stone tablets have been found at Kish giving a complete list of Kings from the earliest times, and proving that Kish was the oldest known capital in the world.

The Council of the Western India Liberal Association, at a meeting held recently in Bombay, adopted a resolution expressing their profound regret at the death of Viscount Morley. The resolution states that Lord Morley made his Indian Secretaryship memorable by taking the first courageous step of associating Indians of merit and ability with the government of the country. The Morley-Minto Reform Act (it adds) is a monument of sagacious statesmanship, which has greatly endeared Lord Morley to all classes of the Indian people.

The will is published of Brigadier-General John Jopp, C.B., of 56, Dorset Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex, formerly of Poona, India, formerly on the Staff of the Duke of Connaught, Commander-in-Chief of the Bombay Army and General Officer Commanding Aden, the Arabian Districts, and Somaliland, 1890-95, and A.D.C. to Queen Victoria and an Indian Mutiny veteran, who died on June 16, aged 83, and left estate of the gross value of £6,100, with net personalty £5,814.

Professor Sir W. M. F. Petrie, speaking last Thursday week at University College on "Religious Life in Egypt," referred to the exploratory work which is being carried on by the British School in Upper Egypt, north of Luxor. He stated that the work would be continued in the coming winter, and that he hoped to take part in it personally, and to follow up the discovery of the remains of paleolithic man made last year by Mr. Brunton, with a view to seeing if it were possible to reach the original deposit of the remains and obtain some more accurate idea of their source and date.

Among wills recently published is that of Dhanjishah Bamanji Khan, of Bombay, India, who died on January 19, 1919, leaving property now sworn for probate at £5,226, of which £473 is estate in the United Kingdom, and Rs.71,300 property in India. He directed his trustees to give to his children "A very good education" and he directed that "my sons shall be got married when they attain the age of 20 years," and that Rs.2,000 should be spent on the marriage of each of his sons and Rs.3,000 on that of his daughter. He left Rs.2,000 to the trustees of the Parsi Panchayat, to be utilised in giving allowances to poor, helpless, and destitute Zoroastrians every month, and failing this trust then to the Parsi Orphan Fund, directing that the interest shall be applied in giving a dinner to the boys of the orphanage on the anniversary of his death.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Conference.

Last week saw the Imperial Economic Conference settle down to serious business. Two sessions were held on October 9, at the first of which the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, addressed the Conference at length on the whole question of Empire development. He emphasised the point that the solution of the problems before us could be summed up in three things: "men, money, and markets"—a definition which crystallises the position aptly. Considerations of space prevent my dealing at length with the speech, but one matter on which he touched, both on account of its relation to the business at the later session and because it affects the region—or rather a part of it—with which THE NEAR EAST is directly concerned, calls for comment. Mr. Bruce pointed out that for a variety of reasons, such as the competition of cheap labour and dumping, there is apprehension in the Dominions as to the future value of the British market. Provided that there is a certain market for their products in this country, then they will welcome emigration on a large scale. In this connection he referred to the Murray Valley Scheme, which he declared was the test scheme of Australia's future migration ideas. The main production in this valley will be dried fruit, and Mr. Bruce stated that an effective preference on dried fruit would be the solution for the scheme. The range of the project will be gathered from the fact that the scheme provides for the ultimate settlement of about three-quarters of a million settlers.

Proposed Preference Scheme.

In the afternoon Mr. Bruce had his answer in the announcement by the President of the Board of Trade, Sir Philip Lloyd-Greame, of the details of a scheme of preference which the Government has prepared for the Conference. It is not final in any way, but is merely intended to represent a basis for discussion, but it was perfectly obvious from its reception by the delegates that it went a very long way towards meeting their wishes; indeed, it might almost be said to have surpassed their expectations. Mr. Bruce's comment that to a certain extent the proposals would revolutionise the scheme he had put before the Conference was significant of the feeling of the meeting. As particulars of the proposals are given elsewhere, I do not propose to deal with them in detail. I would point out, however, that while the commodities dealt with are few in number, there are few parts of the Empire that will not benefit by the scheme for fuller preference. Australia and South Africa stand to benefit most substantially by the proposals with regard to dried fruits, the West Indies are affected by the arrangement for the maintenance of the margin of preference on sugar, while the increased preference on tobacco concerns South Africa, India, and to some extent Canada. The main value of the scheme lies not in any immediate effect that its introduction would have but in the fact that this country is able to offer the Dominions something that they want, and something that promises to be of great ultimate advantage.

The Dried Fruit Trade.

The most interesting aspect of the scheme is the provision with regard to dried fruits. This country has hitherto looked to Greece for its currants and to Turkey for its sultanas, while Yugoslavia is now a supplier of prunes on a large scale to this market. The Dominions have hitherto played a very small part in the trade. Now growers in the Near East will be set wondering as to the outlook as regards outlets for their produce in the future. But, so far as can be seen, there is no real ground for anxiety on their part. To take the case of currants, for instance. The development of production by Australia and South Africa must take time in the most favourable circumstances, and when these countries are in a position to enter the market on a large scale world conditions will be much more favourable than they are at present, which, of course, will mean increased consumption, and as the Greek crop is now only half what it was a few years ago, it is difficult to see what foundation exists for apprehension in regard to competition by the Dominions. Mr. Burlumi, in an interview which appears in another column, takes the view that the effect of preference on currants will simply be that the British consumer will have to pay more for them. That may be the immediate result, but when Empire currants become a serious factor in the market it is at least possible that the consumer may have to pay less for currants than he has to now. In any case, the alternative suggestion that Mr. Burlumi puts forward of a bounty on currant production would not do for the simple reason that what the Dominions desire are markets for their potential production, not financial help to enable them to produce commodities of which they are unable to dispose.

The Persian Market.

The report on Persia of Mr. Hadow, extracts from which will be found in another column, gives a very interesting picture of present conditions in that market. On the whole, circumstances have been favourable for British trade enterprise in Persia in the past few years, and the British Empire's share in Persia's trade in 1921-22 amounted to almost 60 per cent. of the total. We have benefited, of course, from the absence of competition, by Russia and Germany in particular, and it is not to be expected that anything

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like that percentage will obtain in normal times. Mr. Hadow states, indeed, that the proportion has slightly decreased during the past year, due to the revival of competition on the part of certain countries. But while that is to be expected, the alterations that have taken place in regard to trade routes suggest that conditions in the future should be much more in our favour than before the war. It must be emphasised that no great expansion of Persia's commerce can be looked for while the country's communications are in their present undeveloped state. Mr. Hadow points out that Persia's trade routes are divided by the mountain ridges "into a series of separate entities; she is not yet equipped with modern roads fit for motor transport; her railways are as yet only projected, and she has no means of river communication."

The Cotton Supply.

As illustrative of what is being done in this country to further the development of cotton-growing in the Empire, the report of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation is of special interest. Covering a period from February, 1922, to the present time, when the activities of the Corporation have largely been of a preliminary character, the report shows a most satisfactory record of work, and makes it very evident that the Corporation promises fully to justify the hopes based on its establishment. Apart from its work here in connection with the cotton levy, the development of scientific training in cotton research, the award of grants for studentships to certain universities and other bodies, it has been in a position to help in many fields, notably in the Sudan, where it has had much to do with recent developments. At the general meeting held last week, a report of which is given in another column, an interesting review of the position was given by Lord Derby, who said they should work for the ideal of complete independence for the Empire as regards the supply of cotton. It cannot be questioned that that is a feasible proposition; equally it is certain that it is still far ahead, and before it can come even within sight there is much spade work to be accomplished.

Burmah Oil Dividend.

The maintenance of the interim dividend of the Burmah Oil Company at 10 per cent., free of income tax, was in accordance with expectations. All the same it brought a certain measure of relief to the oil market, which has been so depressed of late.

COMMENTATOR.

The directors of the Anglo-Greek Magnesite Company have declared an interim dividend of 2½ per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares.

The total value of imports into Egypt during the eight months ended August 31 was £E28,173,149, while the exports amounted in value to £E29,740,001.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended September 20 amounted to £E.7,455, making the total from April 1 £E.114,298.

Coupons and drawn bonds due October 15 of the Piræus, Athens, and Peloponnesus Railway Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Bonds are being paid by Messrs. R. Raphael and Sons, Austin Friars House, E.C.

COMMERCIAL BREVITIES.

The output of the British Burmah Petroleum Company in September amounted to 60,748 barrels.

The productions of the Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields for the week ended October 5 was: Gemsah, 5 tons; Hurghada, 2,946 tons.

The Greek Moratorium Law has been further extended to December 31, 1923, and Articles 1 and 6 of the Law to January 31, 1924.

Sir Charles Eric Hambro has been elected Deputy-Governor of the Royal Exchange Assurance Corporation, in place of the late Mr. G. F. Malcolmson.

The directors of the Burmah Oil Company have declared an interim dividend of 10 per cent., tax free, on the ordinary shares, payable November 7.

The directors of the Bengal Dooars Railway recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., plus a bonus of 2 per cent., on the ordinary stock, less tax at 2s. 6d., making 9 per cent. for the year to March 31 last.

The new Trade Commissioner's office at Bombay was opened by Major Clarke in Exchange Building, Ballard Estate, on October 1. Communications should be addressed: Major R. W. Clarke, H.M. Trade Commissioner, P.O. Box 815, Bombay.

The Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., announce that the production for September was 1,320 tons. The slight damage resulting from the fire in August at well No. 1 Baicoi was fully covered by insurance. The necessary repairs have been effected and bailing has been resumed.

The Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company recommends the distribution on January 1 next of £2 15s. per cent. out of the stockholders' revenue account, in addition to the guaranteed interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, which will make 7½ per cent. for the year, less tax.

The announcement is made by the Imperial Bank of India, London branch, that they are now prepared to advance to sterling creditors of the London branch of the Alliance Bank of Simla a sum equivalent to 50 per cent. of the moneys due to them. Creditors should apply to the Imperial Bank of India, 5, Whittington Avenue, London, E.C.3.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅝-97$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	290-295
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	380-400
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.23-25.25
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅝-1.4$\frac{13}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	85.60 85.70
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	955-965
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-90,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅝-1.4$\frac{13}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	760-780
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.53½-4.53$\frac{5}{8}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	73 80-73.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	98⅞
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450-470
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	320-325,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	4,200,000*

* Nominal.

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British Consular Reports.

VIII.—PERSIA.

The following extracts are taken from the report of Mr. R. H. Hadow, M.C., Secretary in Charge of Commercial Affairs, British Legation, Teheran, on the trade and industry of Persia as at June, 1923 :—

Setting aside administrative and political difficulties which do not fall within the scope of this report, the principal difficulty with which trade has to cope is the lack of suitable or modern means of transport or of methods of interior communication. As has repeatedly been pointed out in the past, Persia, by reason of her geographical position, the difficult nature of her mountainous country, and the natural inclinations of the majority of her inhabitants, is in the position of a mediæval merchant endeavouring to suit himself suddenly to the conditions of twentieth century trade. The numerous parallel mountain ridges divide her trade routes into a series of separate entities; she is not yet equipped with modern roads fit for motor transport; her railways are as yet only projected, and she has no means of river communication. She has therefore perforce to rely on the native cart, the camel, the mule, and the donkey, except along the three roads from Duzdap to Meshed, from Teheran to Enzeli, and from Kazvin to Khanikin, where roads more or less fit for light motor transport have been made of recent years. Of these routes, the first and last connect with a railway at Duzdap and Khanikin respectively, and so serve as important links for Persia's foreign trade, while from Enzeli on the Caspian ships transport merchandise to and from Russia and the Caucasus. Yet even along these routes the burden of tolls for the upkeep and protection of the roads themselves weigh heavily on both mechanical and animal transport.

Next to the paucity of her interior communications, Persia has suffered considerably from the dislocation of her pre-war import and export routes, and from the consequent necessity of redistributing her foreign trade. Prior to 1914 the bulk of her imports entered the country through Enzeli and the Caspian ports, or via Trebizond and Tabriz. An examination of the trade figures for 1921-22 shows that only 8.4 per cent. of Persia's foreign trade passed through the northern countries adjacent to Persia, while 91 per cent. passed through the Persian Gulf Ports, Irak, or India. The figures for the following year will, it is believed, show no appreciable difference in the proportion of trade borne by these three countries, though the total amounts will not be the same, owing to the partial revival of the Trebizond route, in spite of the difficulties attending transport through the disturbed areas of Turkey, and to a slightly greater volume of trade by the northern routes. In particular a service of small cargo steamers, with a capacity for approximately 800 tons of cargo each, has been started from Hamburg to Enzeli via the Russian canals and the Volga by a German firm. The first steamer reached Enzeli in November last, but since that date no further steamers have reached Persian ports. The figures quoted should not be taken as representing accurately the year 1921-1922 owing to the disturbed condition of Northern Persia at the beginning of 1921, which made it impossible for a time for the Customs authorities to obtain accurate figures for the Caspian and Azerbaijan districts.

The cessation of a large proportion of the former trade with Russia has not been without effect in depressing the Persian market, and the closure of the northern trade routes has further contributed to this depression by enhancing the cost of transporting goods to North Persia, which is often out of all proportion to their original cost. A few Persian merchants attended the Russian fairs at Baku and Nijni Novgorod, which were revived last year, but most of the native trading community is without knowledge of conditions outside Persia, and, except for the activities of the trading branches of the Soviet Government known as the Vneshtorg, Centro-Soyuz, and Naftkom, no Russian agencies now cater for the export trade in such commodities as dried fruits, which before the war were exported in large quantities to Russia and the Caucasus through Tabriz and the Caspian ports. Russian prints, which in 1914 were universally known throughout Persia, have also ceased to be imported in any quantity, and the northern markets remain relatively closed to trade, except so far as Russian petrol, kerosine oil, and similar products are imported. Russia supplies her immediate needs by exporting rice and foodstuffs and a limited amount of timber through her commercial institutions and to some extent through Persian merchants in Gilan and Baku.

New Trade Routes.

This alteration of Persia's normal trade routes has brought into prominence at least two routes which were rarely used before the war. The first of these is the Irak route from Basrah via Baghdad to Kermanshah. This route was always popular with Persian traders before the war, and the construction of the Irak railways from Basrah to Baghdad and thence to Kanikin, near the Persian frontier, has increased the facilities for importing frail or perishable goods. The virtual closure of the northern trade routes has also contributed in no small measure towards making it for the present one of Persia's chief trade routes. Imports via Kermanshah, which amounted to krans 190 million in 1921-22, exceeded in volume those of any other Customs post in Persia, in spite of the 1 per cent. transit tax to which all goods passing through Irak are subjected. In winter caravans leave the metalled road near Hamadan and make their way to Teheran via Sultanabad and Kum or direct via Nobaran in order to avoid the Aveh Pass north of Hamadan and the intense cold of the Kazvin plain. Imports via Irak include in particular a large proportion of the Manchester piece-goods, which are still imported in large quantities . . . . although the return of the kran to its normal value and the competition of other European countries whose coinage has depreciated considerably has tended to restrict these imports and to cut the profit on their sale to a fine point. The accumulation of stocks ordered by wholesale importers on behalf of the Persian merchants during the boom period of 1919-1920 when the kran had greatly appreciated in value was subsequently rejected by Persian merchants owing to the difficulty of paying sterling equivalents when the value of the kran depreciated in 1921-1922. The importers were consequently forced to dispose of their accumulated stocks for what they would fetch, and recent instances have occurred of the sale of goods in Teheran and the provinces of Persia at prices considerably below their current market price in the country of origin.

The second trade route of importance is the Indian route entering Persia at Dalbandin by the Nushki-Duzdap railway. From a position of comparative importance owing to the gulf created

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between it and India by the Sarhad deserts Duzdap has since the construction of this railway during the war risen to be one of Persia's principal distributing centres. The foreign trade which used this route during 1922-1923 reached a total of 87 million krans. The railway, besides tapping the rich grain districts of Seiston and the Kainat, now feeds the districts of Kerman and Meshed, and it is probable that a large proportion of the trade which used to reach Herat and Trans-Caspia from Russia is now supplied from India by this route. Goods exported to Persia through India by this route are entitled to a rebate of fifteen-sixteenths of the Customs dues paid on foreign imports into India.

(To be concluded.)

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Scindia for Bombay (Liverpool, October 24).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Malancha for Calcutta (Birkenhead, October 25); s.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 5); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Warwickshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, October 24); s.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Margha for Bombay and Karachi (London, October 26); s.s. Talma for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 27); s.s. Matiana for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 9); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 10).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Monroe for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Baroda for Bombay (Birkenhead, October 25).

Ellerman, Bucknall, and Strick Lines.—S.s. Frankenfels for Persian Gulf (London, October 20).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Gibraltar, Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 20).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Mardinian for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, October 20).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This is the last steamer of the season for the Danube.) S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 17).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 27).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Destro for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, November 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Nagoya for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 20); s.s. Kashmir for Bombay (London, October 25); s.s. Malaya for Bombay (London, November 2); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Harrisons and Crosfield.

The report of Harrisons and Crosfield, Limited, for the year ended June 30 states that the conditions ruling in both the rubber and tea industries have improved during the past year, but the disorganised condition of many of the foreign exchanges has continued and has greatly restricted or rendered impossible the transaction of business in several important markets. In view of the existing circumstances, the directors are well satisfied with the improved earnings of the business. The depreciation in the total market value of the company's investments, referred to in the reports of the last two years, had practically disappeared at the date of the balance-sheet, and since that date it has been replaced by an appreciation. The net profit earned during the twelve months amounts to £192,711, and £45,114 was brought in, making £237,825 at credit of profit and loss. The directors propose to transfer to reserve for income-tax £12,000, to pay a dividend of 10 per cent. on 189,986 deferred ordinary shares, absorbing £18,999, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on 500,000 management shares, absorbing £2,500, leaving to be carried forward £66,526.

Nizam's Guaranteed Railways.

The report of H.E.H. the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railways Company for the year ended March 31 states that the net earnings of the broad gauge system amounted to £428,293. A sum of £22,333 is payable to the Indian Government on account of the Bezwada Extension, and the sum required to meet the charges in respect of debentures and loans, together with 5 per cent. on the capital stock, and to make provision for the estimated taxation liability, is £301,940, leaving a surplus of £104,025 divisible between the Nizam's Government and the company. The net earnings of the Hyderabad Godavery Valley Line amounted to £334,039. Debenture and loan charges, and provision for estimated taxation liability require £120,765, leaving £213,274 for division between the Government and the company. The board recommend a final dividend of 2½ per cent., plus a bonus of 5 per cent., less tax, making a total distribution at the rate of 10 per cent. for the year.

South Indian Railway.

The report of the South Indian Railway for the year to March 31 last states that the gross earnings were Rs. 4,88,99,408, an increase of Rs. 48,96,319, while the working expenses were Rs. 3,44,14,688, an increase of Rs. 28,57,491; the net earnings being Rs. 1,44,84,720, an increase of Rs. 20,38,828. The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 70.38. The company's share of the surplus profits for the year amounted to Rs. 2,92,039; the amount retained in India to meet Indian income-tax and super-tax for 1923-24 is Rs. 42,506, the balance remitted to London being Rs. 2,49,533 at the exchange of 1s. 4 1-32d. per rupee, realising £16,668. The balance of surplus profits account as at March 31, 1923, was £103,046, plus surplus profits, £16,668, etc.; total, £127,771, less interim dividend of 2 per cent., less tax, paid July 1 last. corporation profits tax., etc., together £18,908. The board now recommends that for 1923 there be paid from surplus profits on January 1, 1924, a final dividend of 2½ per cent., making, with the guaranteed interest of 1¾ per cent., a total for the half-year to December 31, 1923, of 4¼ per cent., less tax. The total distribution for the year will then be 8 per cent., as in the previous three years. Meeting, company's offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster, S.W., Oct. 24, noon.

It is reported that the Soviet Government has sanctioned the constitution of a new silk company with a capital of 3,000,000 gold roubles. It will be known as "Turkchelk," and will interest itself chiefly in promoting the silk industry in Central Asia.

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Near East Markets.

PREFERENCE ON DRIED FRUITS.

A Near East Opinion.

The British Government's proposals for fuller Imperial Preference, which were described in detail by Sir Philip Lloyd-Græme at the meeting of the Imperial Economic Conference on October 9, are naturally of special interest to Near Eastern countries, in view of the fact that dried fruit is one of the commodities specially singled out for attention.

It may be useful to outline briefly the plan with regard to this commodity. There is at present a duty on dried currants of 2s. per cwt., and the Dominions enjoy a preference of one-sixth or 4d. per cwt. The Government, Sir Philip stated, is prepared to offer free admission for currants grown in the Empire, and to consider what increase in the duty on foreign currants is necessary to render the preference effective. Dried figs, raisins, and plums are at present subject to a rate of 10s. 6d. per cwt, the Dominions here again having a preference of one-sixth or 1s. 9d. In this case the Government propose to admit fruit grown in the Empire free of duty.

The proposals as a whole (the other commodities affected are preserved fruit, sugar, and tobacco) were received with great satisfaction by the Conference, those with regard to dried fruit being welcomed as calculated to be of special benefit to Australia and South Africa. In this connection, it is of interest to point out that in a speech at the previous session of the Conference the Australian Prime Minister pointed out that they had a scheme—the Murray River Scheme—which was really the test scheme for the whole of their future migration ideas, and the greatest production that would come from that scheme would be dried fruits. He continued:—

> The position of that scheme at the moment is this. The production of dried fruit in 1914 from the Murray River area was about 12,000 tons, of which Australia herself could take 80 per cent. and about 20 per cent. had to find a market overseas. By 1926, with what we have already done with regard to soldier settlement, with regard to our own ordinary land settlement, and with a very little migration, with the actual land that is settled, with the actual trees that are in the ground and will come into bearing at that time, we shall be faced with a position which is exactly the reverse of what it was. We have to find a market for the export of 80 per cent., and we can only consume 20 per cent. ourselves.

It has to be borne in mind that the proposals constitute at the moment a working plan for discussion and not a definite scheme, but it may be taken for granted that there is not likely to be any great change made, and that the preference introduced will be very much on the lines indicated. A certain amount of apprehension appears to have arisen in the Near Eastern countries, from which Great Britain now draws the bulk of its supplies of dried fruit, as to the ultimate effect of the proposals on the existing market position. But so far as can be seen there is no real ground for any apprehension. There will always be a market for Greek currants and Turkish sultanas and Yugoslav prunes, for normally the demand must tend steadily to increase. It will depend on the growers themselves whether they are able to profit by it, and the certainty of increasing competition from the Dominions will prove a useful stimulus to induce them to introduce improvements in methods of cultivation and marketing, which should have been in operation long ago.

Mr. P. A. Burlumi, of Messrs. Burlumi and Co., discussed the proposals at length in an interview with a representative of THE NEAR EAST. He laid stress on the point that dried fruit from the Dominions is, in effect, English produce, and no one outside the Empire has therefore any grounds for taking exception to anything that Great Britain may do with regard to preference on the suggested lines. At the same time he ventured to advance the view that, broadly speaking, the proposed scheme is somewhat open to criticism. "The production of currants in Australia," he said, "is round about 10,000 tons, of which roughly 6,000 are consumed in the country, there thus remaining about 4,000 to be exported. Now the British consumption of currants averages about 60,000 tons per year, and there has never, so far, been any difficulty in disposing of Australian currants on the British market. What additional duty it is proposed to put on currants remains to be seen; but suppose, for instance, that it is 5s.: what will be the effect of that? Simply that the British consumer will have to pay 5s. more for each cwt. consumed, for a duty is always paid by the consumer, so that if the consumption of currants remains stable he will be paying something like £300,000 more per year to assist in the marketing of Australian currants, which would be sold in any case. My view is that it would be better in every way to give the Dominions a bounty of, say, half that amount to develop the dried fruit trade."

He went on to recall that the duty was, as a matter of fact, 7s. per cwt. before 1890. "Then," he added, "Goschen reduced the duty to its present figure of 2s. after having obtained important concessions from Greece for manufactured goods. The effect on the market was that currants came down at once by 5s. per cwt." Mr. Burlumi proceeded to discuss the position of the Australian grower of dried fruit, and maintained that at present he was competing almost on terms of equality with the Greek grower. "He is at a disadvantage as regards freight of between 1s. and 2s. per cwt., whilst 1s. extra has to be added for higher wages, so that there is a matter of 2s. or 3s. to put against the present tax. Then there is another thing which has to be considered, and one which weighs heavily in favour of the Australian grower. The plantations there are new, while those in Greece are hundreds of years old. The result is that while the crop is increasing in Australia the yield in Greece is diminishing."

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for August:—

Gum.

The exports of gum were as follows, via Port Sudan:—37,316 kilos of bleached of the value of £E.2,176, 1,338,948 kilos of hashab of the value of £E.60,308, and 154,086 kilos of talh of the value of £E.3,427.

Kordofan Province.—11,739 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during the month of August, as against 916 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E.1.063 per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 2,097 kantars, as against 4,347 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 2,261 kantars, as against 1,322 kantars last year. The average price being 880 m.ms. per kantar. 18 kantars were sold at Ub Ruaba at an average price of 850 m.ms. per kantar, as against none last year. No sales were made at Rahad.

Dukhn.

Kordofan Province.—197 ardebs of dukhn were sold in in El Obeid market during the month at an average price of £T.140 ardeb of 330 rottles 148 kilos.

White Nile Province.—The early dukhn crop has been destroyed by some pest. The price of dukhn at Dueim was £T.65 per ardeb of 384 rottles (173 kilos.).

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FARM MACHINERY IN ALGERIA.

Modern machinery is gradually replacing hand machinery in Algeria, especially in harvesting and threshing machinery, says an American Consular report. The Mohammedan has always been little disposed to farming with machinery, and frequently cuts an entire crop with small scythes. The horse-drawn ploughs are chiefly used for ploughing. The harvester binder, ordinarily used in France, and often of American manufacture, is not so well adapted to the large farms in Algeria as the push machine or the "Espicadora." The latter cuts at least twice as great a swath at one operation. The old model of this machine leaves considerable straw in the fields, but gradually French colonists in Algeria are buying a newer model which cuts the straw as closely as do regular binders, and often a wagon driven alongside the machine gathers the grain as it is cut by the Espicadora. As an aid in the purchase of harvesting and threshing machinery, the Algerian Government grants to farmers' associations, under certain conditions, a subsidy of 25 per cent. of the price and a loan of an additional 50 per cent., leaving but 25 per cent. cash to be advanced by the members of the syndicate.

A NEW MOTOR VESSEL.

The single-screw motor vessel Gujaray, built at the Govan Shipyard of Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd. on account of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co., was successfully launched on the 11th inst. The new vessel, which is 384 ft. by 48 ft. by 36 ft., with a gross tonnage of 4,320 tons, is of the shelter deck type, classed 100 A.1 at Lloyd's and complies with the British Board of Trade requirements for passenger service, as well as those of the Indian Government for native emigrants. There are two complete steel decks in addition to the forecastle and boat decks, and navigating and docking bridges. The seven water and oil tight bulkheads, which extend to the upper deck, divide the vessel into five cargo holds, motor room, and forward and after peaks, each hold being fitted with a powerful hatch of ample size. No. 3 hold is arranged either as a deep tank or for the carriage of oil or ordinary cargo as required. The double bottom extends right fore and aft. and is used for the carriage of water ballast, oil fuel and fresh water. The Gujarat is intended for the Calcutta-South African service of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co., and is the first vessel to be launched in respect of the large order recently placed by these owners with Harland and Wolff, Ltd.

OIL NEWS.

Indo-Burma Output.—August, 4,508 barrels, being 3.076 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,432 barrels from Padaukpin field.

Minerva (Roumania)—September report. —Well, Moreni, plot 34, No. 1—Derrick and engine house completed. Royalty plot 113, well No. 106—Flowed some 400 tons and plugged with sand. Runcu—Plot 1, Participation well 1—Drilled 27 metres, total depth 457 metres. Plot 1 Participation well 3—Drilled 16 metres, total 401 metres. Plot 17, Participation well 2—Total 112 metres. Fishing for lost tools. Royalty plot 17—Total 550 metres. Well being cemented.

The first consignment of apples from the North-West Provinces of India recently arrived in this country.

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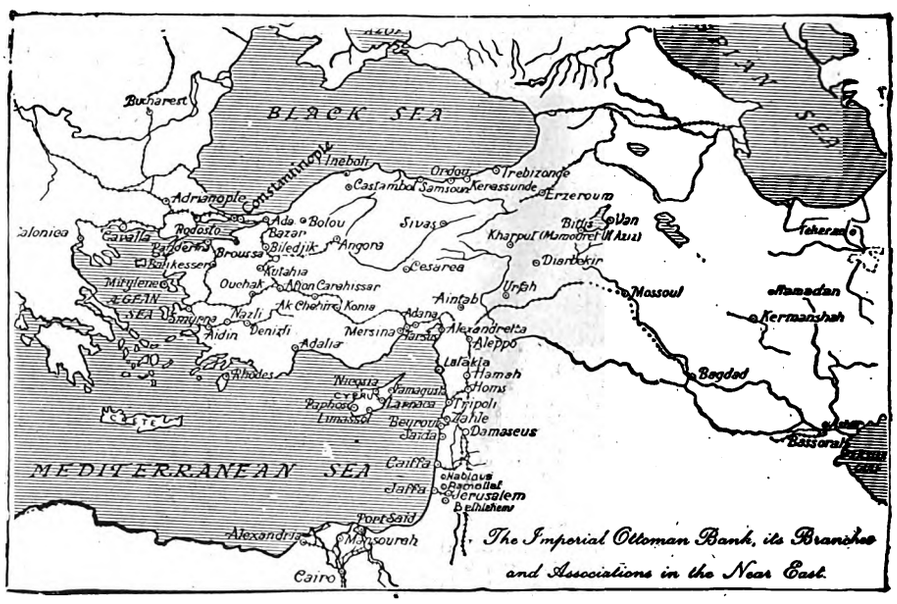

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

COTTON GROWING IN THE EMPIRE.

Satisfactory Progress.

The second general meeting of the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation was held at Millbank House on October 10. Lord Derby, president of the administrative council, presided, and others present included Mr. R. H. Jackson, chairman of the corporation; Sir James Currie, Mr. Arthur Foster, Colonel French, and Mr. L. G. Killby.

The report of the administrative council on the work of the corporation since February, 1922, states that the period under review has been one of some difficulty, since it was only in July last that the passage by Parliament of the Cotton Industry Act regularised the position with regard to the contributions from the cotton industry to the funds of the corporation. The general support accorded to this measure by all sections of the trade emphasised the importance that the industry attaches to the objects for which the corporation has been formed, and its passage into law has placed the corporation in a position to frame schemes covering at all events the period of five years during which the Act remains in force. The development of cotton-growing in the Empire, by its very nature, necessitates the formulation of plans which, however successful, cannot bring their full return in bales of cotton until some years after their initiation. The activities of the corporation up to the present have, therefore, been limited to such proposals as could be undertaken immediately, and although more far-reaching schemes have received careful thought it was recognised that their execution must await the time when, by the passage of the Cotton Industry Act, the corporation's income would be approximately known and assured for some years in advance.

In spite of the limitations mentioned above, to which the work of the corporation has hitherto necessarily been subject, a considerable amount of work has been accomplished during the past year. This has been rendered possible by the generosity of the Government in handing over their contribution to the funds of the corporation as soon as the Royal Charter was granted, in spite of the fact that the reciprocal support from the cotton industry was not then an accomplished fact.

India.

The report points out that the Indian Central Cotton Committee has now been placed on a sound financial footing by the passage into law on March 16, 1923, of the Act to provide funds for the work of the committee by imposing a cess of 4 annas a bale on all raw cotton used by Indian mills or exported. A letter was addressed by the corporation to the committee asking in what ways the corporation could assist in the work upon which they are engaged. In reply, the following three directions in which help might be given have been indicated by the committee:—(a) By the provision of reliable information as to cotton legislation in force or under consideration in various countries, particularly those within the British Empire and in Egypt; (b) by stimulating the sale of Indian cottons in Great Britain; (c) by asking the Liverpool Cotton Association to consider the possibility of providing a futures contract against which East Indian cottons would be tenderable. Steps are being taken to help the Indian Committee in the directions suggested. Copies of legislation relating to cotton growing, marketing, and ginning are being collected in order that they may be sent to the committee. Arrangements have been made whereby ten bales of the most suitable Indian growths will be consigned by the committee to the British Cotton Growing Association, who have kindly undertaken to bring the cotton to the notice of Lancashire brokers and spinners. With regard to the provision of a futures contract for Indian cottons, the Liverpool Cotton Association had already appointed a special committee to consider the question comprehensively before the request from the Indian Central Cotton Committee was received. This committee has not yet reported. In pursuance of the policy of appointing sub-committees to submit recommendations to the executive committee in respect to matters affecting cotton production in the several parts of the Empire, the executive committee have appointed an Indian sub-committee, upon which they have been fortunate in securing the services of several gentlemen prominently interested in cotton production in that country.

Sudan.

A further important step towards the development of the Sudan has been taken in the completion of the financial arrangements for the construction of a railway to tap the Kassala district. The corporation played a considerable part in the negotiations which led up to these developments, and hold a financial interest in the Kassala Cotton Company to the extent of £100,000 6 per cent. debentures and £5,000 worth of ordinary shares. There is every reason to expect a considerable increase in cotton production from this area within a few years of the completion of the railway. Sir Frederick Lugard has been nominated by the corporation as their representative on the board of directors of the company. With the approach of the completion of the Blue Nile dam and the Gezira Irrigation Works, together with the impending opening up of the Kassala district, the Sudan has reached the beginning of a new stage of its economic development. The Sudan Government have accordingly decided to appoint a commission to advise them on the programme of agricultural research which should be followed. On the suggestion of the corporation, Sir John Russell, F.R.S., the director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, and Dr. Martin Leake, Director of Agriculture of the Central Provinces of India, have been invited, and have consented, to carry out this work. It is confidently expected that Sir John Russell's expert knowledge of the science of the soil, together with Dr. Leake's specialised experience of cotton cultivation and the conditions necessary for its development, will result in a report that should prove of the greatest value to the Sudan Government. The commission will commence their investigations early in November.

British Empire Exhibition.

It has been decided to stage a joint exhibit representative of the different growths of cotton produced in the Empire, in conjunction with the British Cotton Growing Association and the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations. The general arrangements for the whole of the cotton section have been undertaken by a committee of representatives of the cotton industry, entitled the "Cotton Textile Industry Committee." By thus placing the arrangements in the hands of a central authority, it is hoped to make the cotton section fully representative of all branches of the cotton industry. The lay-out of the section has now been decided upon, and the corporation's joint exhibit will form the first stand in the series of exhibits which will pass stage by stage from the raw material to the finished article.

The raw cotton exhibit will occupy some 1,750 square feet net, and it has been decided to show two bales of cotton of average quality from each of the countries in the Empire which are now producing the raw material in commercial quantities. One of these bales will illustrate the methods of baling and packing which are practised in the country where it was produced, whilst the other bale will be opened and the cotton will be available for handling by visitors to the exhibition. In addition, small samples from these and other parts of the Empire will be shown of other growths which have already been placed upon the market, or which it is hoped to produce in commercial quantities shortly.

Lord Derby, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the cotton industry in Lancashire was at present going through probably the worst period since the cotton famine. It would be a mistake to let the cotton industry believe that the corporation and the British Cotton-Growing Association could perform miracles, and that anything they could do could be of immediate advantage. The corporation, with Government assistance and with the assistance now given to it by the Levy Act passed this year, would undoubtedly be able to do much for the cotton industry, but it would only be in the future. At the present moment there was a shortage of the raw material, a shortage that was one which, as far as America was concerned, would have to be made good if the industry was to continue in its old way, basing itself on cheap raw material. There were many influences at work to prevent an increase from America, and they would, therefore, in the future have to look more and more to other fields for the raw material.

Without going in any way into the thorny and difficult subject of Colonial Preference, which was now exercising the Conference, anything they could possibly do to extend the growing of cotton in the great Dominions would be not only of advantage to them, but also of the greatest possible advantage to England, and to the Lancashire cotton industry in particular. They must not think that the whole of the Dominions were able to produce cotton at a word. There was no doubt whatever that climatic reasons alone would in many districts prevent the employment of white labour, and anything they could do to increase the production by natives themselves, or by natives under the superintendence of white men, was all to the good, but they must be careful that in encouraging the native to produce cotton they encouraged him to produce the best. It was no use producing an inferior article. It ought to be the endeavour of the corporation to place in the hands of native cultivators the seed from which the best cotton could be obtained, and to see that the superintendence was in the hands of capable men.

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Referring to the cotton levy, Lord Derby said that it was a feature of the Act that it refrained as far as possible from introducing any form of Government interference with the trade. It was left to the corporation to devise the machinery required to collect the levy. The collection of the former voluntary levy, through members of the Liverpool and Manchester Cotton Associations, worked well, and the mere fact that the sums collected amounted to over two-thirds of what would have been obtained from a compulsory levy encouraged the corporation to ask the two associations to help by making this system the basis of the method adopted for the statutory payments. The fact could not be ignored, however, that by this system alone certain sources of leakage could not be prevented, and unless these sources were detected and stopped, spinners who were paying through their brokers would feel that they were placed at a disadvantage. It was the duty of everyone to help to ensure the collection of the money in its entirety. He appealed for notification to the corporation of any cases of default that might be observed. He believed that in the future they would see the whole of their cotton coming from the Dominions, and that in that way they would secure cheaper raw material for the use of British manufacturers. He also believed that in that way they would be supplying a market for their own people overseas, and that the money they obtained for their cotton might to a great extent be spent in making purchases from the mother country. It was an ideal to which they ought all to work, and when it was realised they would have really extended Imperial unity.

Mr. R. H. Jackson, who seconded the motion, said that in regard to the action taken in the several cotton-growing areas, there was no doubt that the Indian Committee had done valuable work. Compared with a few years ago, they were getting cotton from India far more suited to Lancashire requirements and in increasing quantities. He thought the corporation might be proud of their work in the Sudan. He added that some friends of the corporation were making a mistake in promising the trade large increases of supply. Nothing could be worse than to rush into certain areas without full investigation.

The report was adopted.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 5, state :—

Since our last report, the futures market has been fairly active, but without much change in prices. The American Bureau Condition for September was published on the 2nd inst, the figure being 49.50, against 50 last year, and the crop forecast B/s 11,015,000. These figures, somewhat above expectations, have not had any effect in the New York market, but in our market they have checked the bullish proclivities of some of the speculators, and induced them to liquidate part of their commitments; it is to these liquidations that the weakness of the market must be attributed as the demand from abroad, being still rather limited, buying orders from the exporters have not been large enough to absorb all the offerings. The difference of October Ashmouni contracts and November Sakel. contracts has narrowed to $4.15, against $4.51 a week ago; this may be explained by the fact that hedges against arrivals from Upper Egypt have not been very heavy this week, and most of the demand from abroad has been for Uppers. The first tender against October contracts amounted to 750 krs.; October contracts are strongly held; the good demand for medium grades of Uppers, their scarcity, and the cheap premiums of the higher grades over F.G.F. are all obviously in favour of receiving October. Report from the leading textile centres. after being better for some weeks, are again somewhat disappointing. This week's receipts amount to 226,326 krs., against exports 151,956 krs. The stock stands at 1,022,616 krs. Spot: We have had a fairly busy week at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 19,900 bales, of which we estimate 10,100 B/s Sakel., 9,550 B/s Uppers, 100 B/s Pilion, and 150 B/s White. Cotton is now arriving freely from both Lower and Upper Egypt, and the stock shows a considerable increase over last week.

Sakellarides.—The medium and good grades have attracted most of the demand, and the lower grades have been rather neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are generally dearer than last week, the grades below Fully Good Fair especially so. There have been considerable arrivals of new Sakel. cotton this week. From what we have seen, we do not think that the quality of this season's Sakel. will be any better than that of last year.

Uppers.—Here also the medium and high grades have claimed most attention, only a small business being done in cotton below Fully Good Fair. Prices of Spot against contracts are without much change from Fully Good Fair upwards, whilst below Fully Good Fair they are inclined to harden.

Pilion and Brown.—A small business has been done in Pilion at about last week's rates, but no business is reported in Brown, quotations of which are without much change.

White.—A moderate business has been done in the medium and good styles at hardening rates.

The Crop Position.—All is well in Upper Egypt. In Lower Egypt reports on the results of crop vary considerably, but, in general, we think that the yield per feddan will be about equal to that of last year. According to the official Government figures the area under cotton in Upper Egypt is feddans 394,100, and in Lower Egypt feddans 1,194,000. a total of feddans 1,588,100, against feddans 1,799,843 last year. We do not think that this year's acreage is less than that of last year and we consider these figures below the mark.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for September, which, however, we think is somewhat too pessimistic, reads :—

Lower Egypt.—The temperature during September was, on the whole, cool; there were some mists during the early part of the month and a few heavy dews which have caused some damage. Pink worm and boll worm have continued to cause damage. The percentage of bolls of the first picking attacked by worm is about 20 to 25 per cent., and of the second picking 30 to 40 per cent. First picking is general, about 15 days late. The results vary according to district. Generally speaking, the yield per feddan appears to be rather lower than last year. Prospects for the second picking are not satisfactory for the moment, and results will depend greatly on the weather during October. As regards ginning yield, results obtained up to date are superior to last year. The foregoing applies to the Sakellaridis type. As regards the 15 per cent. planted with other varieties, we can make no comparison, because last year they existed only in small quantities.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—Temperature during the month was, on the whole, favourable. In general, no new attacks of boll worm were reported. The first picking is finished in almost all districts; the result has been satisfactory and superior in quantity to that of last year. The second picking will give varying results, as many of the second crop bolls were picked with those of the first crop. Ginning yield is irregular and inferior to that of last year.

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LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Tone Distinctly Weak.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 10 :—

Egyptian Spot.—Early in the week a good tone was apparent, and prices hardened considerably, only to sag away in the most disappointing manner immediately afterwards. The shutting down of the Amoskeag Mills in America has had a depressing effect on the cotton markets of the world, and undoubtedly the demand from the trade in this country also has slackened off considerably. The astonishing break in prices which occurred following last week's Bureau Report has thoroughly unsettled matters here in Lancashire, and the spot inquiry during the past week has been the poorest we have witnessed for some considerable time. Buying has been of a strictly hand-to-mouth character, and spinners profess a distrust of current prices. The Alexandria market has given way even more than ours under the pressure of heavy receipts from the interior, but this was only to be expected at this time of the year, and the receipts are no heavier than last season's, if as heavy. To-day Alexandria hardened somewhat, and

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advices have been received that the Egyptian Government had intervened and were purchasing Good Fair and F.G.F. Sakellaridis. We think, however, that any artificial stimulus of the above description can only succeed temporarily, and that, unless better trade reports are received, the weight of cotton coming into sight will still further depress the market below to-day's level. Later on we look for a recovery, as we hold that the statistical position of cotton warrants this view. To-day's price of 18.20d. for F.G.F. Sakel is 165 points (approximately) above the price of Fully Middling American, and on this basis does not look dear. The stock of Egyptian cotton held in Great Britain on the 5th instant was returned as 65,000 bales, and this compares with 89,000 bales on the same date 1922. In our opinion the remarkable reduction which has taken place during the last two months furnishes indisputable proof of the shortness of stocks at the mills. Other important factors in the situation, as it affects Egyptian consumers, are: The small "carry-over" we have this season as compared with last; the likelihood of a smaller crop this year than last, and the much healthier trade conditions ruling in the Egyptian section than was the case a year ago.

The demand has displayed practically no new features. The usual inquiry for Sakel 100 to 150 on has prevailed, and latterly there has been a tendency to forestall a weakening of the basis, and ask down to 85 on. The basis shows little signs of weakening at present, however. A little more interest has been displayed in Good to Fine Sakel, up to 21.75d. being paid. Uppers 16¾d.-17¼d. have been in request, and a few fresh lots have arrived per the "Amasis." Here, however, the basis has shown a tendency to fall away somewhat, and competition has been fairly keen. White Sudan has been asked for here and there, but little business has resulted. A spasmodic inquiry continues to crop up here and there for Brown cotton. Sudan cotton has been neglected. C.i.f. trading, on the whole, has been quiet, although yesterday a better business was reported, rumour crediting an important concern in the North with some fairly substantial purchases. Forwardings to spinners for week ending 5th instant were returned as 10,337 bales. Estimated sales, 2,200 bales Egyptian, and 100 bales Sudan. Quotations show a reduction on the week of 30 points all round. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 18.00d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Position Practically Unchanged.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 13 states:—

There is no material change to report. As has been the case during recent weeks, inquiry has been of fair volume and well spread over the various qualities of goods, but the actual business resulting is much too small.

Yarn.—Whilst the market has not been subject to fluctuations in raw cotton so much as it was last week, the volume of business passing shows no improvement. Quotations continue to be irregular, varying according to the position of the individual spinner. Shipments during the month of September amounted to 11,987,000 lbs., as against 12,802,800 lbs. in August and 15,697,000 lbs. in September last year.

Cloth.—A fairly good inquiry has been experienced, but orders booked are mainly for small quantities of goods required for immediate use. India and China call for no special mention, but some of the smaller markets, such as Egypt and the Levant, are said to have shown somewhat increased activity. Shipments in September were 344,318,800 sq. yds., against 329,945,600 sq. yds. in August, and 395,823,900 sq. yds. in September last year. For the nine months of the current year shipments exceed those for the corresponding period of 1922 by approximately 29,000,000 sq. yds. only.

Raw Cotton.—A quieter market has been experienced, with fluctuations in American much less than in the preceding week. Quotations are little changed on balance. The price of Egyptian, on the other hand, has fallen by nearly ½d. per lb. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 16.61d.; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.15d.

THE SUDAN CROP POSITION.

The report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for August gives the following particulars:—

Dongola Province.—Ghaba Pumping Station Report: Cotton, the watering of which started on July 15, has germinated well. Cotton is looking well. Gharb Dongola and Baga cotton is late and not so far advanced. Nuri Pumping Station Report: Cotton is coming up well on the whole. Gureir Pumping Station Report: The cotton sown has all germinated well and looks promising.

Berber Province.—Kitiab Pumping Station Report: The cotton at Duba and Hanik is very forward and healthy, and is now bearing fair-sized bolls. Gendettu Pumping Station Report: The cotton crop generally looks promising.

Blue Nile Province.—There has been a large demand from natives for American cotton seed for rain crops.

Red Sea Province.—The cotton is being cultivated this year in Khor Arbaat and Groob—about 500 feddans in the former. Tokar: Reports on the Baraka Flood are still very promising, and it is approximately estimated that an area of 60,000 feddans has been watered, suitable for cotton cultivation. The flood has gone down the East side of the Delta again, but prospects to date are good.

Kassala Province.—Rain-grown cotton in Mafaza District is reported to be satisfactory.

EGYPTIAN CROP OUTLOOK.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars of crop conditions in September:—

Cotton.—Though somewhat damp at night, the weather has not delayed the ripening of bolls. Picking is taking place in the early-sown fields, and will be general in the first days of October, being a week or ten days later than last year, owing particularly to the considerable amount of resowing at the beginning of the season. In the basins picking has been completed. Ginning outturns seem to be poor in Upper Egypt this year. Taking into consideration the fact that the crop is later, the infestation of pink boll worm may be considered the same as it was last year. The ordinary boll worm, aphis, root-rot, as well as slight attacks of mealy-bug, have been reported from several provinces.

Millet (sêfi).—Harvesting has practically come to an end. The yield is very slightly below normal.

Millet (Nili).—The crop is growing satisfactorily under favourable weather and water supply conditions. Cobs are forming in early-sown fields. No pests or diseases have so far been reported.

Rice (sêfi).—The crop is growing satisfactorily in early-sown fields, where harvesting has already begun since the middle of September. Elsewhere ear formation is general and harvesting will soon begin. The condition of the crop is almost normal. The area under sêfi rice this year is 148,826 feddans.

Maize (Nili).—The weather conditions and water supply are both satisfactory. The crop is growing well and cobs are forming in early-sown fields, whereas in late-sown localities, thinning, manuring, and watering are being carried out. In some provinces the crop is about a fortnight ahead of last season. Minor attacks of stalk-borer and cotton worm have been reported from some provinces of Upper Egypt. The condition of the crop is normal.

Sugar-cane.—The crop has greatly advanced owing to favourable weather and plentiful water supply. The usual stalk-borer attacks have been reported from almost all provinces and the mealy-bug has been noticed in Minya and Qena. The general condition of the crop is satisfactory. The area under sugar-cane this year is 55,963 feddans.

Bersim.—The land is being actively prepared for this crop. Sowing has already taken place in some localities during the first fortnight of September. In such localities germination is satisfactory.

The grain harvest in the Odessa province is expected to yield 1,800,000 tons.

The Anglo-Afghan Trade Convention has been ratified, says a Simla message.

It is estimated that the harvest of silk cocoons in Turkestan will amount to 2,900 tons.

Professor J. A. Todd has been appointed Principal of the Liverpool School of Commerce.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 650—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

A Greek Rising.

The political situation in Greece remains in a grave tangle, awaiting apparently for a successful *coup* to straighten it out. Whether the rising that has now occurred in the Peloponnese will solve the problem it is impossible at the moment of writing to determine. The earliest reports must be regarded as reflecting the views of the present authorities in Athens, and it is natural that they should convey the impression that the movement, which is definitely labelled "Metaxist," is only a half-hearted one. It would succeed in the Peloponnese if it were to have any measure of success at all, but the crux of the political situation is undoubtedly Athens. Before this counter-revolution took place, it was evident that the Greek Government was finding itself in serious difficulties. Reconstruction of the Cabinet as a result of the resignation of four Ministers, who gave as their reason for leaving the Government a desire to stand at the coming elections, had been postponed, and the four portfolios had been distributed among the remaining Ministers. Martial law had been withdrawn, and the restrictions on the liberty of the Press that were to take its place had not been enforced. Unfortunately the newspapers at once profited by their immunity to indulge in an orgy of recrimination, thereby rendering the country the greatest possible disservice. Passions are sufficiently inflamed without being fanned anew, and what Greece wants is a self-disciplined Press, which will try to lead the nation towards a dispassionate settlement of its difficulties.

The Cabinet's Dilemma.

The Revolutionary Committee has no doubt meant well, but finds itself the victim of conditions for which it is responsible without being able any longer to control them. It recognised the necessity of elections in order to regularise the situation in Greece, but knew that, if these were held under its auspices, they would command little confidence either in the country or abroad. The elections were due to be held on December 2. Even if the Metaxist rising were to prove a complete fiasco, there would be little chance now of their being held on that date. Whatever the issue, indeed, Greece would seem to be launched on a long and stormy voyage. Failure on the part of the Metaxists would inevitably strengthen the Revolutionary Committee's hold on the country, without leading to a settlement of Greece's troubles. Success for the new movement might bring salvation in the long run, but only if very wise use were made of that success, and in the present state of party feeling it is difficult to believe that any Greek Government will be allowed to practise moderation. During the past week a report was current that M. Venizelos had pressed for the resignation of the Government and the formation of a colourless Cabinet. If such a change was to be effected peacefully, it required the consent of all parties, with a special understanding between the incoming Government and the Revolutionary Committee. Whether M. Venizelos's influence at a distance is still strong enough to lead his country into peaceful waters remains to be seen. The present insurgents are, of course, strongly anti-Venizelist.

Politics and Finance in Turkey.

Sir Adam Block's report on the Ottoman Public Debt is dealt with fully in another part of this issue. It would be well if the lesson inculcated by the report could be taken to heart by every politician and public official in the new Turkey. Sir Adam Block calls attention to the favourable outlook for Turkish finance, provided that a rational policy is adopted in regard to taxation, the reduction of expenditure, and the meeting of Turkey's obligations. Clearly the seizure of ceded revenues and such acts as the confiscation of the receipts of the Galata Bridge toll must cease, if Turkey is to be able to appeal confidently to the foreign money market. In view of the stress laid by Turkish spokesmen on the impoverished nature of the country, it is evident that the soundest policy to adopt would be not to allow political complications to interfere with financial rehabilitation. Mustapha Kemal Pasha must know by now that his scheme for a Turkish republic is likely to have little permanency about it. His own prestige and influence may suffice to carry it into execution, but enough opposition to the idea has already been shown to

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suggest that a republic would not outlive his fall from power. If all his time and powers are to be expended on forcing a republican régime on his protesting fellow-countrymen, his promised reforms will go by the board, and much of the money needed for placing Turkey on her feet again will be used to bolster up an unpopular policy.

Egypt's Problems.

There are indications that independent Egypt, in addition to her other problems, may be confronted with a dynastic tangle. The earliest manifestations of Nationalism in the present reign showed trace of personal hostility to King Fuad; but, as time passed, any breach that there may have been between the Court and the Wafd appeared to have been healed. The return of Zaghloul Pasha is stated to have reopened the question of the Nationalist leader's status at Court functions; but it is far more probable that the real issue between King Fuad and Zaghloul Pasha turns on the interpretation of constitutional monarchy. At the same time the ex-Khedive Abbas Hilmi is known to have renewed his vicarious activities in Egypt. The Khedivah Mother has returned, and it was apparently necessary to forbid any demonstrations in her favour, even the students of a number of schools educated at her expense not being allowed to welcome her. It may be taken for granted that antagonism towards the Court will seek to improve its opportunity by encouraging the hopes of the ex-Khedive. The action brought by the Khedivah Mother against the Egyptian Government for the recovery of arrears of rents, amounting to some seventy thousand pounds, during her exile in Constantinople, is significant, and it may well be in connection with the endowment of the Monarchy and the size of the Civil List that agitation against the Throne will be able to rally support.

Britain and Abyssinia.

The admission of Abyssinia into the League of Nations, as our Addis Abeba Correspondent reminds us on another page, was conditional upon her acceptance of certain obligations. To its credit, the Abyssinian Government at once agreed to the conditions; but time will show whether it has the strength and ability, as well as the goodwill, to give effect to its undertaking. The important thing in this connection is that the existence of the goodwill should be recognised, and practical encouragement should be afforded the Abyssinians in their desire to live up to League of Nations standards. It is unfortunate that the belief should have gained ground—carefully fostered in all probability by interested parties—that Great Britain was hostile or even indifferent to Abyssinia's admission. For this state of affairs British policy is to blame in adopting an attitude of aloofness towards Abyssinian affairs. The proximity of the Sudan and the potentialities of trade between the two countries would, it might be thought, have led to a wiser handling of Abyssinia. Here again, we fear, the completeness of the break with old conditions has not been appreciated. Abyssinia, in common with other Oriental countries, is pulsating with new life and new ideas, which in one form and another have come to stay. It is the duty of States having interests in that part of the world to lend, as far as they can, a helping hand, and not to hold aloof. The first essential is that Great Britain should be represented in the country by a man of action and energy, sympathetically disposed towards the strivings of a backward people for better things. No additional expenditure of the taxpayers' money is called for—merely that our foreign policy should be directed with vision and common-sense.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

The "Daily Mail" Trust.

Nearly everyone has agreed that the absorption by Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook of the Hulton papers was an extremely bad thing for the country, but the prospect of making money out of the deal proved too much for them, and by this morning the *Daily Mail* Trust flotation was successfully accomplished, the lists being over-subscribed.

It is very curious how people take up these newspaper shares. A newspaper share is, I suppose, the least secure of all properties, having only the goodwill of the public behind it, and that easily enough wrecked by such common things as bad editing and so on. But some of them contrive to do very well.

In this case it would really seem that you can touch almost any Englishman through his pocket: fancy him eagerly paying out money to have his opinions formed for him! There never has been, intellectually speaking, a more pitiable spectacle in the history of our race.

Unemployment Plans.

We were told suddenly a few days ago that the Government had its plans ready for the decreasing of unemployment. At a cost of a few millions roads are to be improved, bridges to be built, railways and public authorities to have credit extended to them, and so on. The unfolding of this scheme may cheer up some people, but there are certain points about it on which one cannot be quite clear. How many men, for instance, is this new work going to absorb? And where is the money coming from?

One certainly sympathises with the Government which has to deal with the unemployment problem until foreign markets—and this, of course, is the crux of the whole matter—rehabilitate themselves; but one would welcome more specific details from Mr. Baldwin's Administration of the palliatives upon which they are about to embark. The stock of goodwill which was at first extended to the present Government is running out; and if it is not soon replenished the cupboard will, indeed, be bare of all but a skeleton whose bones feebly rattle every time the food-hunting dogs make a raid on it.

The Panel Dispute.

The dispute over the reduction of panel doctors' fees has now reached a most interesting stage, for the strange spectacle can be seen of the Approved Societies and the State on the one side and the doctors and the Labour Party on the other! The Approved Societies appear to have adopted an impossibly arrogant attitude, telling the doctors not only that they ought to work for less money, but that their present work is of poor quality: this attitude, though in more courteous fashion, the State supports.

Quite definitely the doctors have rejected the State's proposals, and it is anticipated that out of 14,000 panel doctors at least 12,000 will refuse to work under the new conditions. This, of course, does not mean that the public, which can, when able, still pay its fees, will suffer, but it does mean a huge attack on the whole panel system. Few disinterested people will regret the passing of this very German system; in fact, they rather welcome the possibility of another of Mr. Lloyd George's mighty achievements becoming undone. But probably the State will eventually cave in, if only to save this perniciously bureau-

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cratic system, and the doctors have already agreed to submit to arbitration.

British Prestige.

The word "prestige" is nowadays on everybody's lips, and it is curious that in the last few days we have had from two men, one eminent and both well known, diametrically opposed views on the question of Britain's prestige. Lord Allenby thinks that British prestige never stood higher than it stands to-day (at any rate, in the Near East), and Sir Robert Horne seems to think the world is laughing at us. Now, if it were merely a matter of choosing between a soldier's word and a politician's a formation of opinion would be simple, but the affair is not so easy as that.

To judge by the Continent's actions, it certainly does not think so highly of us as it did in 1918, nor, further, does it fear us as much. How far this was inevitable, and how far the result of a fickle or inert foreign policy we are not now concerned with: what is important is our undeniable impotence. And so, though Sir Robert's motives for emphasising our loss of prestige may not be those of a simple, unbiassed student of affairs, it is probable that he is nearer the truth. Our slate is not quite clean, and the pencil seems to refuse to write at all.

Music and Eating.

Somewhere the other day I read of a scheme, at a big restaurant in Coventry Street, to give grand opera to dining patrons. This singularly repulsive idea, which one perhaps ungenerously supposes comes from America, will assuredly wreck many a good digestion. It has seldom been assumed that we ever knew how to listen to music, but to forget how to feed is indeed a sign of decadence.

But, it may be argued, it is not music that is put first to the mouths and then to the ears of these strange eaters. No self-respecting artist, not even a tenor or a second-fiddle, could pour out his soul to a noisy company of soup-consumers, nor would the chorus be the more tempted to sing with correct intonation by the smell of fish.

However, there are still places in London where you may feed well and not hear a note of either instrumental or vocal music, knowledge of which one jealously guards in case prosperity might overtake them.

The Cesarewitch.

There was at the Coliseum last week a very knowing ventriloquist who summed up the world's philosophy at the moment in the sentence: "Whenever I back a horse it will not go. It simply will not go." For the victory in the Cesarewitch last Wednesday of the French horse, Rose Prince, caught the British public badly napping, and they are now a little discontented. First Carpentier walks through Beckett, then the Cesarewitch result, and now, they gloomily suppose, it is Epinard for the Cambridgeshire. This French ascendancy in "sport" is trying to them: France can do what she jolly well likes in the Ruhr, but when she brings her terms of unconditional surrender to the Holborn Stadium and to Newmarket it is a trifle too much.

But, apart from this blow to national pride, the Second Newmarket Meeting was a great success. The big race itself must have been thrilling: even those who backed none of the first three (this I know for a fact) could bring themselves to read of the stirring finish.

"Colour."

The recent remark by M. Poincaré that France consisted of a hundred million people, counting its African possessions, has set people in this country talking hard. We know well that the Latin races do not feel the colour bar as the British and other races feel it, and the question has arisen: Are they or are we wrong? The Englishman can love the coloured races, but he seldom loses the feeling of distinction. Is this fact proof of his superior worth, or is it a very notable failing which must, if the future of his country is to be sure, be erased?

Some writers on this subject have tried to draw a line between the coloured races of the older civilisations (*e.g.*, China or Arabia) and those which can boast of little civilisation (*e.g.*, Senegal), but the truth is that this separation, though pretty enough in theory, does not work out in practice. There *is* something, obscure it as we will and as we properly should, that divides an Englishman from the coloured races, just as there *is* something in the physical appearance of a Jew which, disguise the fact as they may—and they are foolish to disguise it when their enmity rests on no better ground than this—repels many men. This question of colour is, in fact, one of the biggest problems before the Empire, for we cannot proceed to any higher synthesis without overcoming it.

Road Disfigurement.

I have before mentioned in these columns the increasing disfigurement of our countryside by the hoardings of advertisers, and the matter has now reached such a pass that the Minister of Transport has appealed to county councils to do what they legally can in the prevention of this creeping ugliness. Quite apart from the artistic side, who the devil wants to know, just as he is entering the country from the town, which paper he ought to read or which pills are best for his digestion or whose soap is best for his wife's complexion? In this matter I am a thorough-going Socialist, for I do not count the erecters of hoardings as respectable citizens. And if there really is no law to stop them, then one must be passed at once, or we shall all become Anarchists. Alter Ego.

A Memorial Hospital for Women and Children is being erected in Edinburgh to the memory of the late Dr. Elsie Inglis. Dr. Elsie Inglis gave her life in war service, for her work among the Serbians in the retreat resulted in her death. The corner-stone of the Memorial Hospital was laid on October 19 by Lady Novar, with whom were Lord Provost Sir Thomas Hutchison and Lady Frances Balfour.

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THE SERBIAN ROYAL CHRISTENING

To attend the christening of the infant Crown Prince of Serbia the Duke and Duchess of York left London on October 18, arriving in Belgrade on the evening of the 20th. Their Royal Highnesses were welcomed at the station by King Alexander, the Queen of Roumania, Prince Arsène and Prince Paul of Serbia, and by M. Pashitch, the Prime Minister; M. Nintchitch, the Foreign Minister; General Pechitch, the Minister of War, and members of the Diplomatic Corps. The Duke and Duchess were loudly cheered by the crowds as they drove to the Royal Palace, where they are the guests of the King and Queen.

At noon on October 21 the infant Crown Prince was baptised in the chapel of the Old Palace at Belgrade. The Royal personages present included the Duke and Duchess of York, the Duke representing King George as godfather, the King and Queen of Roumania, with the Crown Prince Charles and Princess Hélène and Princess Ileana, Queen Elisabeth of Greece, Prince Nicolas and Princess Hélène-Vladimirovna, Princess Irene, and Princess Olga of Greece. The Royal personages were attended by their suites, and others at the ceremony included representatives of foreign countries as well as representatives of the Serbian Government and of the Army and Navy.

The christening was performed by Patriarch Dimitrije, who, in an address, stated that, in accordance with the wish of the godfather, the infant Prince was named Peter. The water used for the baptism was taken from six rivers of Yugoslavia and from the Adriatic Sea. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Duke of York presented the infant Prince with a golden cross.

On the following day the Duke and Duchess of York attended the marriage of Prince Paul of Serbia to Princess Olga of Greece. They are due to return to London to-day (Thursday).

THE CENTRAL ASIAN SOCIETY.

The Central Asian Society began its new season on October 11 with a lecture, given at the Royal United Service Institution, by Colonel E. W. Costello, V.C., on "Palestine after the War," Sir Maurice de Bunsen being in the chair. Colonel Costello commenced by going back to the time of the Armistice, when Palestine was in the possession of British troops, who had conquered it. (Incidentally he distinguished sharply between the Mesopotamian Arabs, who had hindered our forces, and the Hejaz Arabs, who for their assistance to us were rightly awarded a kingdom.) Then one of four things might have happened to Palestine: (1) A return to the Turk; (2) the creation of small Arab States—in effect the same as (1); (3) its incorporation in the British Empire—which British soldiers and officials desired, but which for financial reasons alone was impossible; and (4) the present policy. With the aid of some excellent photographs, the lecturer went on to describe the geographical and racial character of Palestine, its boundaries (pointing out the impossibility of the Northern boundary with French Syria), its transport, the excellent road and rail services, its potentialities, and so on. The chief want of Palestine was water and power; if the waters of the one real river, the Jordan, could by engineering feats be made to flow over the fertile lowlands, much might be made of the country.

Turning to the political side, Colonel Costello said that the pre-War fear of the Moslem Arab towards the Christian had now been transferred to the Jew. Previously the Moslem had lived happily with the Jewish colonist, but of the new type of immigrant, always clever and sometimes arrogant, he was afraid. The root of the Palestine problem lay in the nature of the Jewish immigration. There was, however, no possibility of the Zionists ever swamping the Arabs, and it was hoped that, as in the case of Canada and of Switzerland, reconciliation between two peoples now hostile to each other would ultimately be attained. In any case, nothing was more cruel to the Arab than to encourage him in any attempt to gain his ends by other than constitutional methods—the country was held, absolutely, by British troops, and there was no answer to the cold steel of the governing authority.

The meeting closed with a lament by Mr. Mellor that the railway bridge over the Suez Canal had been destroyed, thus preventing through transport between Egypt and Palestine, and with some remarks by the chairman on the excellence of the British Administration in Palestine.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Captain Hadji Kyriakos has retired from the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Navy.

The Athens newspapers state that it was owing to the political situation that the King postponed his journey to Belgrade.

Two "Superior Naval Commands" for the Levant and the Dodecanese have been established by the Italian Minister of Marine.

Afghan troops have been raiding villages in search of the Landi Kotal and Kohat murderers. In one attack a man believed to be one of the murderers was wounded. Two others were killed.

Dr. Nansen addressed a meeting on the "Near East Refugee Question" yesterday at the Central Hall, Westminster. The meeting was under the auspices of the Imperial War Relief Fund.

A fire has destroyed the Russian Embassy, at Buyukdere, on the Bosphorus, which housed a number of Wrangelist refugees, and was used for the Anglo-Russian boys' school, run by the "Save the Children" Fund.

The Provisional Synod at Constantinople decided on October 16 to invite all Archbishops depending on the Constantinople Patriarchate to send their votes for the new Patriarch. The votes must be received within forty days.

Colonel Kalfoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, who was once a member of the Italian Military College at Turin, had a long and very friendly conversation with the Italian Prime Minister, Signor Mussolini, in Rome last week.

A message from Bucharest states that M. Rosenthal, a director of two leading Roumanian newspapers, was assassinated on October 18, being shot through the head, it is alleged, by Alexander Dachoglu. The motive of the crime is stated to be political.

The Times reports that Mr. Howard Carter, accompanied by his assistant, Mr. Callender, and Mr. Burton, of the New York Metropolitan Museum, arrived at Luxor on October 17. The party were met by notables of Luxor and Gurna and Mr. Carter's own Egyptian staff.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby was last Friday formally admitted to the honorary freedom and livery of the Leathersellers' Company, and afterwards entertained at luncheon by the Master and the Wardens at Leathersellers' Hall, St. Helen's Place, E.C. Mr. Ernest T. Janson (Master of the Company) presided.

Dr. M. Gavrilovitch, the Serbian Minister, last Saturday afternoon opened a bazaar, in aid of funds for the building of a new parish hall and the renovation of the organ and the church of St. Magnus-the-Martyr, Lower Thames Street, E.C., in the Fishmongers' Hall. Madame Gavrilovitch accompanied her husband.

An Anglo-Roumanian clinic was opened in Bucharest on October 15 by the Crown Prince, who was accompanied by the Crown Princess. This children's welfare institution has been established through the efforts of the London Committee of Friends of Roumania under Lady Muriel Paget, who was present at the ceremony.

The following members of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India left London last Thursday to join the Kaisar-i-Hind at Marseilles:—Lord Lee of Fareham (chairman), Sir Reginald Craddock, and Professor Coupland, with the joint secretaries, Mr. S. F. Stewart and Mr. A. W. Street. At the station to see them off were Viscount Peel, Secretary of State for India, Lord Inchcape, and a large number of friends. The full Commission will assemble at Delhi on November 6, and it is hoped that their inquiries in India may be concluded in time for them to return to England about the middle of April.

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The Near and Middle East.*

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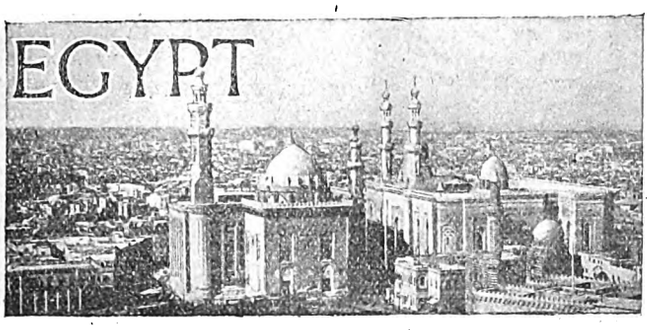

Cairo, October 14.

Political Calm.

Following Zaghloul Pasha's violent outburst at Ciro's Club last Sunday evening, when the Wafd leader, in addition to some remarkable advice to his hosts, the native merchants of Cairo, on how to make their business affairs flourish, made the most bitter personal attacks on his political opponents, we have had a week of almost complete political inactivity. The cause has been the illness, real or assumed, of Zaghloul Pasha, which prevented his attending the Accession Day celebrations in Alexandria, and thereby saved him from the humiliation of being received as a private individual, a mere notable, like thousands of others, instead of as an especial personage, the head of the nation's delegation, as he had wished. Zaghloul Pasha had been expected to deliver two further speeches during the week, but these were cancelled. Last Sunday's tirade, already referred to, was probably the most extraordinary utterance he has ever made. The unmeasured ferocity of his attacks on Adly Pasha and on the leading followers of the latter was the feature of the speech, but the Wafd leader's remarks on business affairs were not less remarkable in their way. Assembled in the hope of hearing something in the nature of a constructive industrial programme, the merchants were treated to a glorification of political agitation. "They say," said Saad Pasha, "that you should not meddle in politics. I say that you should take part in politics, even that politics should come before your businesses, until we have achieved our aims. What beautiful days were those when, on account of my having been banished, you closed your shops and warehouses and refused to carry on your affairs, when you boycotted all commerce, to show your love of liberty!" With this strange definition of what constitutes a satisfactory business situation the merchants seemed to be quite content.

Election Statistics.

Official statistics, issued during the past week, show that a very satisfactory proportion of the electorate went to the poll for the first stage of the elections on September 27 last. Throughout the country 58 per cent. of the voters exercised their right, a figure which must be considered excellent when it is remembered that this was the first election under the new régime, and that, apart from any apathy on the side of the electors, there was inevitably a failure to attain the highest point of efficiency in the official arrangements, with the result that many voters who wished to use their suffrages were unable to do so. In the provinces the returns were remarkably good. Beni Suef Province recorded 86 per cent. of possible votes as having been cast, and throughout most of Upper and Lower Egypt very good percentages were maintained. On the other hand, the Frontier Districts, as was to be expected, seem almost to have ignored the elections. It was, as anticipated in my letter of September 30, the towns which pulled the total average down. In Cairo just over, and in Alexandria well under, one voter in four went to the poll. In Port Said and Suez the returns were much worse; there scarcely 10 per cent. of the possible total votes was recorded. It used to be generally thought that the strength of the political movement in this country resided in the towns, and that the fellaheen were indifferent to changes in forms of government, so long as their cotton was selling at a good price. It looks as if, in view of the election statistics, that opinion is no longer tenable.

A Tragedy of the Nile.

During the last few weeks Egypt has been visited by young men of various nationalities engaged in attempts to walk round the world. The most recent of these was an American youth, C. R. Morrison, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., who set out from Maine two years ago, with a companion called Manning Wein, in an attempt to circumambulate the earth, in order to decide whether cooked or uncooked food is the more sustaining. Morrison was to eat nothing but the former, Wein only the latter. After crossing the United States and traversing several Far Eastern countries Wein was taken ill, and subsequently died, at Bangkok. Morrison came on alone, bicycled from Calcutta to Bombay, and eventually fetched up in Cairo. Here he was joined by a young Swiss, Meyers, who happened to have arrived about the same time, engaged in a similar attempt. The two joined forces, and decided to proceed up the Nile by canoe, and thence to continue overland to the Cape. By the sale of picture postcards—for one of the terms of Morrison's wager was that he should carry no funds and should depend upon the sale of postcards or the gifts of sympathisers—they raised enough money to buy a canoe, and on Wednesday set off on their long journey. The Nile is now in high flood, and everybody they met had urged them to give up their plan, or at least to put it off until the river had dropped to its normal level, but they would not listen to advice. After proceeding a few miles,

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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with great difficulty against the swift current, the inevitable happened—they encountered rough water and the canoe capsized. Not until then did it transpire that Morrison could not swim. He was drowned, and only with great difficulty did Meyers manage to reach shore. Despite this experience, Meyers is determined to continue his journey, though the Swiss Consul in Cairo has endeavoured to dissuade him from his intention. Unfortunately, short of deporting Meyers as an undesirable, the Consul appears to have no power of control over his movements. However, if he succeeds in getting as far as the Sudan, he will almost certainly be arrested for being without means of support, and so may be saved from an untimely end, despite himself. These attempts to perform eccentric feats have, up to a certain point, a sporting interest, but when, as in the case of Morrison, the competitors are entirely ignorant of the conditions to be faced, and ill-prepared to encounter the dangers certain to be met with, the affair loses its sporting character and becomes mere foolhardiness. It is improbable that members of the local British community, who have been the chief helpers of those engaged in these freak performances in the past, will, after Morrison's death, be so ready to help young men in efforts to commit suicide.

The Ghaffir Tax.

The legality of exacting the ghaffir tax from subjects of Capitulatory Powers, now that martial law has been abolished, is still in dispute. It appears that the subjects of most of such Powers are refusing to pay, though British residents are an exception, and, failing any Consular advice to decline to pay, are complying with demands for the tax. According to the *Journal des Tribunaux Mixtes*, the tax cannot be lawfully levied upon subjects of Capitulatory Powers except British subjects, who, the *Journal* states, are bound to pay because the agreements made between the British and Egyptian Governments at the time of the abolition of martial law, ratified all steps taken under martial law—one of which was the extension of the ghaffir tax to all foreigners—and these agreements are, naturally, binding upon British subjects. In so far as they concern taxation, however, they are not binding upon the subjects of other Capitulatory Powers until they have been approved by those Powers, or by the General Assembly of the Mixed Courts. If this contention is correct, it results in the curious position that British subjects in this country are less favourably placed than the subjects of any other Capitulatory Power. The British Union has been active in the matter, and it is expected that some definite pronouncement will be made in the near future regarding the liability of all foreigners. Obviously a system which discriminates between subjects of various Powers cannot be allowed to be permanent.

The Approach of Winter.

With the hot spell of last week-end the summer seems to have said good-bye. Friday and yesterday were days of drizzling rain and mud, such days as we seldom see in Egypt. The final social events of a summery nature, the last cricket match at Gezira, and a swimming gala at Maadi Sporting Club, were carried through under very unpleasant conditions. The Residency returns to Cairo at the end of the month, the Ministries early in November, and the Court, probably, somewhat later. By then winter will be here, and the first big batches of tourists will have arrived.

Jerusalem, October 7.

The Affair in Transjordania.

Much the most thrilling part of the "Revolution in Transjordan" was the report of it in certain of the English papers. Here, during the first week, information was late, scanty, and as reliable as most locally provided news; so the English papers' reports, wildly wrong and exaggerated though they were, cabled back to the place of their origin, remained for some time the only locally published versions. Even now, three weeks after, it is not easy to discover the precisely accurate sequence of events. What happened was, however, roughly as follows: The Beni Sakhr tribe were in good odour with the Emir Abdullah, since they had borne the brunt of the small Wahabi raid some time back. The Emir's favour showed itself, in correct oriental form, in a substantial money reward. Other tribes, notably the Idwan, disliked this, especially since they suspected that the repulse of the Wahabis was mainly, if not entirely, due to the accidental presence of a new British aeroplane out on a trial trip (its pilot returned to Amman still blissfully unconscious that anything at all untoward had happened). Together with this ordinary jealousy, Sultan Pasha, the Idwan leader, was moved with the ideal of constitutional reform, and presented his proposals to Abdullah. The main gist of them was Transjordan for the Transjordanians, strict economy, and non-discrimination in levying long-overdue taxation. Some of these reforms were well on their way when the Emir, apparently growing uneasy at the interest being shown in Transjordan constitutional methods, ordered a police investigation, which nosed out various suspects, who were promptly exiled to the Hejaz. Certain of Sultan Pasha's friends were affected, and he felt that, man for man, he could mobilise sufficient Bedouin to make Abdullah behave more circumspectly. The

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intervention of British armoured-cars and aeroplanes was not desired, and the Idwan view was that this was undesirable and unfair in what was a purely internal matter in an "independent Transjordan." Sultan Pasha told the British representative so, and threatened, further, that if any British force interfered, he, Sultan Pasha, must report the British representative to his superiors at home, and that the British representative must send his assurances of neutrality to Sultan Pasha at Suweili. The Idwan chief, having thus given away his position, set about his display of armed force, cut the wires between Amman and es-Salt, since he understood that this was correct warfare, and stopped two or three harmless folk on the Amman-es-Salt road. He then obligingly took up a position on the only road accessible to armoured-cars, and waited. An armoured-car was sent to reconnoitre, and this ran straight into the Idwan tribesmen, was surrounded, and had to fight its way out, leaving the Idwan so sore that when Emir Abdullah's legion arrived on the scene three hours later the Idwan left the field. The British air force took only the part of onlookers. The Idwan chief and his head men have escaped to French Syria, and the rest of the tribesmen have dispersed; their cattle and property have been largely looted by the Beni Sakhr.

Local sympathy in Transjordan is all on the side of the Idwan, who were moved by the best intentions, and who have suffered, comparatively speaking, so terribly. The evil influence which lay behind Sultan Pasha's misguided attempt, is variously described as French, Wahâbi, and even Zionist! But the real motive was clearly simple dissatisfaction with the Abdullah régime.

The National Party.

A noticeable sign of the Palestinian times is the return of the Arab London Delegation. Its efforts had become noticeably less popular in Palestine, and the attempts to raise funds for its support in London produced disappointing results; but even so the total lack of enthusiasm or of any public expression of indignation at their lack of success, was remarkable. It is always unsafe to prophesy in this country, but it is exceedingly probable that this return marks the end of the extremist Moslem-Christian Association campaign. The movement, first promulgated in the *Mirât esh-Sharq*, for restating Palestinian Arab nationalist claims along less negative lines, is gradually taking definite shape. This movement does not abate a single jot of Arab nationalist claims as against the Zionism of the Mandate: it only tries to adopt a less rigid attitude of opposition to the Mandatory Administration. It calls itself "The National Party," and has announced the following as its governing principles: (1) Palestine is an integral part of the Arab confederation of States; (2) The National Party shall strive to bring about Pan-Arab unity; (3) It refuses to recognise any foreign influence in the country, political or economic; (4) It regards all Zionists as foreigners, and will oppose the movement of Zionism; (5) The Party repudiates the new Palestine Constitution, and requires a new Constitution to be laid down agreeing better with the wish of the inhabitants; (6) The Party demands a decrease of taxation.

This certainly is, in essence, no less compromising than the programme of the Moslem-Christian Association; the difference lies, rather, in method, which is, in the "National Party's" own words, "to receive from the Government all that it is possible to receive, and to make the strongest possible stand on behalf of those things which it is not yet possible to obtain."

Arabs and the Advisory Council.

The "die-hards" of the Christian-Moslem Association refer to this rival movement in contemptuous terms, and pretend to see in it nothing but the strivings of three or four Arabs of no particular influence to bring themselves into prominence. Yet, for all that, they imagine that the Government is taking it seriously and purposely holding back from its next move in the matter of the Advisory Council in hopes that the "National Party" will have shortly paved the way for an acceptance of a further modified form of the Advisory Council. *El-Falastin*, in this connection, publishes a scheme which, it alleges, has been brought forward by Suleiman Bey Nassif as a compromise. According to this scheme the Advisory Council will consist of ten elected Arabs and five Arabs nominated by the Government; three Jews, two elected and one nominated, and eight Government officials, while the High Commissioner is to have two votes. *El-Falastin* complains that this leaves only ten safe nationalist Arab votes out of the total of twenty-eight.

Bolshevist Propaganda.

There has recently been some mild Bolshevist propaganda. The various local newspapers have received through the post proclamations purporting to be issued from "The Central Arab Bolshevist Council of Palestine." They are the usual type of thing. They are written in Arabic. The Arab Press point out that the Arabic is crude, and that it was just such proclamations as this which led to the anti-Jewish riots of May, 1921, which (according to the findings of the Haycraft Commission) were immediately occasioned by Arab indignation against a small Jewish Bolshevist party. The Arabs, therefore, infer a further recrudescence of Bolshevism among the Palestine Jews. On the other hand, the Jews point out that only a day before the receipt of these present Bolshevist leaflets, *es-Syasah*, an Egyptian paper, in the course of an article on the final signing at Geneva of the Palestine and Syrian Mandates, advised the Syrians and Palestinians to embrace Bolshevist teaching as the only means of breaking away from the foreign yoke. The Jews here have also found it easy to connect all this with the news which is being sent to the *Daily Express* from Palestine about the likelihood of demonstrations on November 2—Balfour Declaration Day—concluding that all the evidence points to an artificial effort towards creating conditions for another anti-Jewish outbreak on that day.

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IRAK.

Baghdad, October 3.

Sir Henry Dobbs.

It was announced recently that Sir Henry Dobbs has been appointed substantive High Commissioner for Irak in the place of Sir Percy Cox. In honour of this King Faisal gave a banquet on September 22, to which the leading British and Arab officials and Arab non-officials were invited. The King congratulated Sir Henry Dobbs on his appointment, and referred to the cordial relations which had always existed between himself and Sir Henry during the time which he has been officiating as High Commissioner, and expressed the hope that they would always remain so. He added that great obstacles in the way of the progress of Irak as an independent State had been removed by the signing of the Anglo-Irak Treaty and protocol and the Treaty of Lausanne, and he now relied on the British Government to remove the one remaining obstacle, namely the question of Mosul and Irak's northern frontiers. The elections to the National Assembly were about to be held. He had no doubt that the persons elected to that Assembly would be capable men, who realise the country's need and are bent on showing to the world that, freed from the shackles of foreign rule, Irak is quite competent to manage her own affairs. The draft of the organic law is, he said, to be published very soon, and it will be seen that it provides for a very excellent Constitution, based on those of the most advanced States in the world. This would no doubt be passed, and the existing agreements with Britain ratified, and the State would then be on the high road to complete independence and to admission to the League of Nations. He felt sure that every Englishman in Irak would support the country in its progress, and if mistakes are made, regard them with a lenient eye. Finally he expressed his own and every Iraki's gratitude to King George for the efforts made by him towards setting the infant State on its feet.

Sir Henry Dobbs, in reply, thanked the King for the flattering reference to himself, and assured him that he could always rely on the speaker's support in all measures aimed at strengthening the position of Irak and at promoting the cause of Arab unity. The country had already made great strides, but real progress depended to a remarkable degree on the maintenance of mutual confidence between the Irakis and the British. Irakis must realise that the British mean what they say and must show the British that their advice and assistance are welcomed. Even more essential, however, is it, especially in an Eastern Government, that the Government should base all its actions on a solid foundation of justice and equity. In Irak to-day there are many conflicting interests, and the gravest danger now threatening the State was that the Government should place the interests of sections of the people above those of justice and the common weal. This danger the Government has not yet overcome, and until it does so it will never gain the confidence of the mass of the people. He would make it his business, then, to keep this point ever before the eyes of the Government; and at the same time he hoped that when the time came for him to leave this country the ties of friendship and mutual confidence between the British and the Irakis would have been securely forged.

The Prime Minister's Views.

A day or two later the Prime Minister, in an interview which he gave to the editor of *Al Iraq*, laid great stress on the value to Irak of the alliance with Great Britain, and said he was convinced that Irakis would show their gratitude by returning to the National Assembly only persons pledged to maintain and strengthen that alliance. He expressed complete satisfaction with the progress of the elections, in which a much larger proportion of the electors were participating than had been expected. Asked whether the Assembly would have a chance of revising the Anglo-Irak Treaty and protocol if it wished, he said that that was quite impossible; it would merely be for the Assembly to ratify or reject it as it stood. These views reflect with considerable accuracy the opinion of all those who have any actual stake in the country.

Sport.

The racing season opened in Basrah on September 30. It has been decided to race in alternate months in Basrah and Baghdad during this winter. In Baghdad a new course is being laid out near Alwiyah and within easy reach of both Baghdad and Hinaidi, and it is hoped that the season will be a success. Racing has already made a marked difference in the way horses are being groomed and cared for, and if only on this account alone it deserves encouragement.

The new golf course adjoining the race course was opened on October 1, Sir Henry Dobbs driving the first ball. Both the race club and the golf club have been forced to seek new sites owing to the flood of the spring, which completely inundated both of them. The new sites have the advantage of being much more accessible for the majority of the members.

PERSIA.

Teheran, September 6.

The Ulemas.

The arrival of the Persian Shiah priests from Kerbela and Nejef, the sacred shrines in Mesopotamia, in Persia some weeks ago has been the outstanding item of interest throughout the country, especially to the British residents. They arrived first at Kermanshah, and the Shah sent one of the Royal Princes and the Minister of Public Instruction to welcome them, and numerous other deputations were sent from the capital to wait on them. They stayed at Kermanshah some weeks, and then moved from that town to Kum (some 100 miles to the south of Teheran), where is the sacred shrine of Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet. A few days ago the Valiahd (Crown Prince) drove to Kum in his car to greet the priests on behalf of the Shah, and returned the following day. About the same time two representatives sent by King Faisal from Baghdad arrived in Kum, and it was arranged that a small party of the priests should return with them to Irak to enter into negotiations for the return of the whole party of the Ulemas. The papers mention that King Faisal may meet the priests at the Persian frontier in person. It is therefore to be hoped that some *modus vivendi* will be arrived at, and that the priests may be permitted to return to Kerbela and Nejef.

Their continued presence in Persia has been a most disturbing element, and the priests throughout the country have seized most eagerly on their alleged deportation (whereas they actually left Mesopotamia entirely of their own free will as a

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protest against the banishment of Sheikh Mahdi el Khalessi) to carry on a most violent campaign in pulpit and Press against the British Government, to whom the action of the Irak Government is, of course, attributed.

The principal leader of this campaign in Teheran has been Khalessizadeh, the son of the deported priest Khalessi, who himself was one of the priests banished from Mesopotamia last year. Demonstrations were organised by him in the town, one of which proceeded to each of the foreign Legations in front of which a heavy indictment of British policy in the East was read out and Britain's alleged anti-Islamic designs were condemned. As most of the ministers and staffs of the Legations were not in residence in town, but were up country for the summer, the demonstration naturally fell somewhat flat! Another demonstration of several thousands, also headed by Khalessizadeh, read out violent denunciations outside the British Legation, which was actually uninhabited at the time. The crowd were soon dispersed by the police without incident.

The possibility of religious feeling causing troublesome incidents during the week of mourning, from August 20 to 26, to celebrate the martyrdom of the Imams Hossein and Hassan, was not lost sight of, and foreigners, more especially Britons, were well-advised to keep clear of town whenever possible, especially on the Wednesday and Thursday, the 9th and 10th days of Moharram, the culminating days, when head-cutting and breast-beating processions, worked up to a religious fanatical frenzy, are the order of the day. The banks and most European concerns were closed for the week, and advantage was taken of this by the staffs for a few days' trip in the mountains, always a pleasant way of escaping the heat and dust of town during the summer months. Everything, however, passed off quietly, though I hear the processions were on an unprecedentedly large scale.

Owing to King Faisal's action, and the probability of the Ulemas being shortly permitted to return to Mesopotamia, feeling has considerably calmed down during the past week or two, and it is to be hoped that the unfortunate anti-British outburst of the past two months and the consequent ill-feeling will soon subside and be a thing of the past.

General News.

An uninterrupted rainfall for a fortnight of an unprecedented intensity has caused most damaging floods in the neighbourhood of Resht, in Ghilan, and although there has not been much loss of life a good number of houses have been washed away, and it is feared that the rice and tobacco crops are practically ruined. The latest advices report the subsidence of the floods and a return to more or less normal conditions.

Dr. Millspaugh, the American Administrator-General of the Finances, has left for Beyrouth for a two or three weeks' trip, the object of which is not disclosed, and his rather sudden departure has been the subject of some speculation.

Two German merchant ships from Hamburg arrived at Enzeli some days ago, thus repeating the experiment of last November of bringing goods to Persia by the Russian inland waterways and the Caspian. The cargo of one of these boats is stated to be ammunition and rifles for the Persian Government, and of the other, haberdashery and other goods. In view of the length of time taken, it is doubtful, however, if this route for the transport of goods will appeal to the Persian merchant.

September 19.

The Ulemas.

Politically the past fortnight has been practically devoid of interest. The recent outburst of anti-British feeling occasioned by the presence in Persia of the Ulemas from Kerbela and Nejef has more or less subsided, pending the result of the negotiations now being carried on in Baghdad between King Faisal's Government and the representatives of the priests who are still in Kum, and although the papers report that they wished to proceed to Teheran or Meshed they have been persuaded from the capital to remain where they are. The Ulemas were visited a few days ago by the Minister of War, on his way to Ispahan, to which he has gone in connection with military matters, and from which he will proceed to Sultanabad before returning to Teheran.

The Late Dr. Ryan.

The American and European communities were to-day grieved to learn of the death early this morning of Dr. Ryan, the municipal expert who was engaged by the Persian Government, under Dr. Millspaugh, to reorganise the municipality. Dr. Ryan had been suffering only a few days from malignant malaria, and his sudden death from heart failure, when he was otherwise improving, came as a shock to the European residents here, among whom he was a general favourite, and who will feel his loss keenly. The Ministries of Finance and Foreign Affairs and the Municipality will be closed to-morrow, the day of his funeral, as a sign of respect.

The fruits of Dr. Ryan's labours are, however, evident in the town. The streets have been improved—a thing which was very badly needed—the new Municipality building in the Artillery Square is gradually nearing completion, and the square itself is being relaid with a good stone surface. The space in front of the Imperial Bank of Persia, which every winter is a sheet of mud and water, causing much inconvenience (and which is referred to by the Europeans as "the Bank pool"!), is being properly drained, and five of the six gates leading into the principal thoroughfares, which lent such an air of old-time picturesqueness to the Square, have been pulled down, partly to widen the streets and partly also to provide bricks for the new buildings. Such is economy in Persia!

General News.

One of the steamers which recently arrived at Enzeli from Hamburg brought out 24,000 rifles and ammunition, which the Ministry of War has purchased in Germany, and 160 wagon loads of this war material are now on the way to Teheran.

The new Russo-Persian Commercial Company, under Khoshtaria, was formally opened last week in the presence of the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Public Instruction, and other notables. This bank proposes to open branches in the provinces at places where the former Banque d'Escompte de Perse had offices. It will deal almost exclusively with the Soviet Republics in Russia.

Dr. Millspaugh is due back to-day or to-morrow from his trip to Beyrout, where, it is now learned, he went to get married.

Reuter's Madras correspondent reports that Sir P. Rajagopola Achariyar, who was recently appointed High Commissioner for India in London, in place of Mr. Dadiba Merwanjee Dalal, is leaving for London early in January next year.

EDUCATIONAL.

TO PARENTS requiring a Home Education for their children. Lady, who already has niece living with her, wishes other children to share lessons and games. P.N.E.U. system. Healthy village in good district. References required. For full particulars apply, MISS EARL, Norton-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE MODERN PROBLEM.

"THE FABRIC OF EUROPE." By Harold Stannard. (London: Collins. 10s. net.)

There is no way other than the historical method of understanding the problems that have so abundantly beset us since the making of the "peaces" after the War. One must go back to the origin of unrest, examine the unrest itself, and then see where European statesmen, having subdued that unrest in one place, went wrong in allowing it to break out in another. This is what Mr. Stannard has very completely and ably done for the problems now before Europe.

He breaks no new ground, it is true, and his exposition is done in the best Oxford manner. But his substance is never dull, for it concerns us so nearly. He shows how close the Eastern Question was to settlement, how the "Big Four," both through lack of concentration and national jealousy, missed their opportunity to settle it, and how, in its present form, it is even more formidable than before. (He states, for example, that the "incalculable complication" of a Jewish State in Palestine will inevitably foster political activity in Western Asia.)

With his remarks on the Western Question we cannot here properly deal; suffice it to say that they are both just and admirable, particularly in his demonstration of how before and during the War they were linked.

When Mr. Stannard comes to the period after the war he finds two things dominating the minds of Europe and of the New World — the Soviet system and Nationalism. These, he says, tend not only to conflict with each other, but themselves to be the cause of conflict. The Soviet system, however, he thinks cannot endure, because, owing to its methods of terrorism, it will starve itself to death. The danger from Nationalism, on the other hand, can be overcome by the League of Nations, to which, moreover, he is convinced that America will ultimately adhere. Hence the future of Europe lies with the League.

It may be inferred that Mr. Stannard is one of a very rare band in these times—an informed optimist. That this is so both his conclusions and internal evidence warrant—his confidence in the League and his reference to such abstractions as "Mother Earth" and "Spirit of Man" are sufficient examples. Some of his material is by this time inevitably a little "dated"; his remarks on the utter incompatibility of France and Soviet Russia, for example, did not even when written weigh enough the considerable and increasing business done between the two countries. But, on the whole, his book is extremely accurate, and very useful in the formation of a reasoned outlook on the more pressing of modern problems.

A SWEET SINGER.

"The House of Hope." By M. W. Cannan. (London: Humphrey Milford. 4s. 6d. net.)

The singer of the songs in this little book, Miss May Wedderburn Cannan, is very evidently an artist. Her choice of subject is fastidious, her diction chaste, her sincerity manifest. She knows, moreover, her limits, and there is no straining of her voice beyond its proper bounds. It is true that one can see the poets of her eagerest study—Brooke, Housman, Flecker, Chesterton, the Pre-Raphaelites, and the Celts—but it is no mere echoing of their thoughts in which she indulges.

The burden of most of her fragrant and chiselled songs is the sadness and splendour of those who lost their lives in the War, and the necessity to take "the golden journey" to rediscover their love. A most admirable sentiment, here conveyed with worthy reticence.

Quite in keeping with the fine dignity of this book are the charming woodcuts by Miss Phyllis Gardner and its production by the Oxford University Press.

AN ALTERNATIVE TO DYARCHY

"THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION." (London: The Chiswick Press).

The anonymous author of this pamphlet tells us that he drew it up in the year 1919, too late for it to be laid before the Joint Committee which framed the new Indian Constitution. He has now printed it in the hope that it will be taken into full consideration when that Constitution comes under revision. We trust his hope will be realised. Things have moved quickly in the last four years, and the pamphlet contains some dead matter which might have been cut away with advantage to the reader, but on the live issues it is acute and interesting.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"Toys." By the Ranee of Sarawak. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Trade, Tariffs, and Transport in India." By K. T. Shah. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd. 21s. net.)

"The Campaign in Mesopotamia, 1914-1918." History of the Great War based on Official Documents. Compiled by Brig.-Gen. F. J. Moberly, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O. Vol. I. (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 15s. net.)

"The Heir of the Malik." By Michael John. (London: Herbert Jenkins, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Day's Journey." By W. B. Maxwell; "Only Three." By Benjamin Swift; "A Fool's Hell." By Rosita Forbes. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net each.)

"Yugoslavia. The Nations of To-day. A New History of the World War." Edited by John Buchan. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 15s. net.)

"Practical Mysticism Plainly Put." By the Rev. Holden Edward Sampson. (London: William Rider and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The Songs of the Beginning." By the Rev. Holden Edward Sampson. Vol. I. (London: William Rider and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"Portraits of Jesus." First Series. By the Rev. Holden Edward Sampson. (London: William Rider and Son, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"The World Crisis, 1915." By the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill. Maps and Charts. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 30s. net.)

"THE BLUE PETER."

The October issue of "The Blue Peter" is a particularly fascinating number, both the text and the illustrations being on a high level. The cover picture, of the clipper ship Harbinger, by Mr. J. Spurling, calls up the smell of the sea at once, and this atmosphere is maintained throughout most of the articles. Apart from Joseph Conrad's personal tribute to the "Torrens," readers of The Near East will be particularly interested in "The Tale of a Treasured Cargo," by Brig.-Gen. H. H. Austin; "Through the Red Sea," by Craven Hill; and "Nazareth," by M. J. Bourdillon.

Messrs. Hurst and Blackett are shortly publishing a book entitled "By Tigris and Euphrates," by E. S. Stevens (Mrs. Drower). This book deals with the more permanent aspects of Irak, its men, women, customs, creeds, castes, cults, shrines, and literature, and will be found to meet the lack of a guide book inasmuch as it deals with routes as well as with the history of the most interesting places in Irak.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

October 25 (New Style).
October 12 (Old Style).
Rabia 14, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Chesvan 15, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Mr. Ameer Ali has returned to 2, Cadogan Place.

Major-General Sir Herbert Uniacke left London last Friday for India.

Sir Basil Zaharoff has arrived at the Carlton Hotel, London, from Paris.

The Raj Kumar and the Kumari of Kapurthala left Paris last week for India.

The Roumanian Minister returned to 50, Grosvenor Street last Thursday from Paris.

Mme. Gavrilovitch, wife of the Serbian Minister, returned to London last week from Belgrade.

Mr. Edwin N. Atherton, American Vice-Consul and clerk at Sofia, has been transferred to a similar post at Jerusalem.

Viscount and Viscountess Lee of Fareham left for India last Thursday, and do not expect to return to England until April.

The marriage arranged between H.R.H. Prince Paul of Serbia and H.R.H. Princess Olga of Greece took place in Belgrade last Monday.

Field-Marshal Viscount and Lady Allenby are expected to leave London for Egypt on November 1, joining the P. and O. s. Narkunda at Marseilles.

The Countess Lytton, accompanied by her two daughters, expects to embark on the P. and O. s Kashmir at Marseilles on November 1, *en route* to Bombay.

Captain and the Hon. Mrs. Critchley left on October 22 for Paris *en route* for Cairo, where Captain Critchley will resume his duties as A.D.C. to Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby.

The engagement is announced of Tudor Morgan Jenkins, son of Mr. Rhys Jenkins, of Swansea, and Joyce Alice, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlton J. Giraud, Bournabat, Smyrna.

Among the passengers who are sailing in the P. and O. s. Maloja, leaving Marseilles for Bombay on November 9, will be Lady Cunliffe and her son Lord Cunliffe.

Sir Reginald Craddock, Sir T. F. Dawson Miller, Sir Basanta Kumar Mullick, Sir Thomas and Lady Smith, and Major-General R. A. Cassels left London last Thursday for Marseilles to join the Kaisar-i-Hind for Bombay.

M. Hackin is opening the winter programme of the India Society with a lecture at the Institut Français this evening, at 8.45, on "Indian Art in Tibet and Central Asia." The chair will be taken by the Earl of Ronaldshay.

The only daughter of Major-General the Maharaja of Bikanir, the first Indian Prince to participate in the Imperial Conferences, was betrothed last Friday, the opening day of the Dusserah Festival, to the Maharaj-Kumar of Kotah.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society, Lord Headley is lecturing to-day (October 25) at 5 p.m. on "A Pilgrimage to Mecca." The lecture, which will be illustrated with lantern slides, will be given at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, S.W.

In connection with the fifth anniversary of the Republic of Czecho-slovakia, the fifth Anglo-Czech Service will be held on Sunday, October 28, at 3.15, in Christ Church, Westminster Bridge Road, S.E.1. The Anniversary Preacher is the Rev. R. C. Gillie, D.D..

Sir Henry Burt, K.C.I.E., C.B.E., and Lady Burt, and the Hon. Mr. C. A. Innes, C.S.I., C.I.E., Mrs. and Miss Innes, have booked their passages to Bombay in the P. and O. s. Macedonia, and have arranged to join the steamer at Marseilles on November 16.

Sir Edward Chamier, Legal Adviser to the India Office, who has accepted the invitation of the Government of India to be chairman of the committee which is to inquire into the question of creating an Indian Bar, will leave London next Tuesday, and embark at Marseilles for Bombay on the mail steamer Kashmir. He will be accompanied by Lady Chamier and their daughter.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1923.

THE INDIAN ELECTIONS.

India is now on the eve of her second general election. It would be nearly true to say her first, for the experience of three years ago was necessarily of the nature of a rehearsal, and a rehearsal from which many of the leading performers deliberately absented themselves. No reasoned forecast of the results has, so far as we know, been published either in this country or in India, and it is not our intention to attempt to fill the gap. Even in England such forecasts are difficult and uncertain: in India they are still impossible, partly because the lines of party, though they are appearing, are not yet distinct, partly because large sections of the electorate are either reticent or uninterested, partly because the profession or business of the election agent is in its infancy. These features of the situation follow necessarily from the history of the country, and a brief retrospect may be useful, in order to bring out the central fact—the entire breach with the past which has been consciously and deliberately made. Three centuries ago the great bulk of India was subject to foreign despots, who dragooned and exploited a submissive people at their will. A century later the foreign dynasties had become acclimatised, or "Indianised," in the current phrase, and, largely for that very reason, their power was crumbling. In the towns they still ruled, but in the country agriculture was giving way to the more profitable occupation of robbery, and on the coasts the various bodies of foreign merchants had learned the ominous lesson that they must be strong enough to protect themselves. Another century saw the collapse of the old and the beginnings of the new era. A hundred years ago another foreign despot—this time an English chartered company—had already introduced a new spirit, and, while definite administrative changes were still few, peasants, shopkeepers, and artisans were just beginning to lift up their heads. To-day shopkeepers, artisans, and peasants are being called on to choose their own rulers, often from among the descendants of the men who dragooned and exploited their ancestors.

The transformation wrought during the last hundred years has, indeed, been enormous, but at the moment it is important to realise its inequality as well as its extent. An educated middle-class has been brought into existence in the interval, and has learned with remarkable quickness to talk, and in some cases to think, on the lines of Western politics. Most of the candidates at the impending elections are drawn from its ranks, and many of them are speaking in a language which is barely understood in the constituencies. The masses of the people have learned more slowly. They have not stood still, for they have grasped something of the significance of English ideals of equity and progress, and in their present temper no Mogul or Persian despot could hope to rule them in the old style for a week. On the other hand, the idea of democratic self-government has as yet not been fully grasped. Inheritors of the tradition of secular servitude are slow to realise that they possess power, limited as yet, but actual and substantial, to decide their own destiny; the importance of an election is not understood, and to many of the voters their new privilege presents itself either as a nuisance or as a toy. They are called on to choose worthy representatives, but they have little experience in the art of judging character from words, and, apart from words, there is practically no material on which to found a judgment.

We insist on this inequality of development because it explains and justifies the anxiety felt in many quarters at the decision of the extremists, who are at once revolutionaries and reactionaries, to take part in the elections, and to secure as many seats as possible with a view to wrecking the Constitution as a whole. For the mass of Indians life is still so hard that almost any Utopia is attractive, and the extremists come before the electors with a definite Utopia of their own, an India purged of all Western taint, and, consequently, by their logic, a heaven for all Indians. It matters nothing to them that their new India is really the old, for they have no serious opposition to face. The electorate, unassisted and inexpert, can scarcely be expected to penetrate below the spoken word; the other parties in the field have as a rule failed to produce effective leaders; their discipline is altogether defective, and their rank and file have not yet broken with the old Indian tradition that it is essential to be on the winning side. In too many cases they are temporising where they should be fighting, they are borrowing planks from their opponents' platform, and they are confining themselves to the safe course of abusing the British administration, because they hope that abuse may win some votes, and they know that the Government will not retaliate. In saying this, we have no intention of attributing blame to the members of the various parties for an attitude which follows naturally, if not inevitably, from the past: our object is merely to bring out the fact that the extremist Utopia will practically hold the field in those constituencies where it is effectively presented, because there will be nobody to expose its real nature, or prove to the electors that they are being asked to walk back blindfold into the morass from which they have so recently escaped. Still less will it be possible to blame the electors if they yield to the temptation. The work to which Parliament has set its hand is, in fact, the political education of the Indian people, and the scholars are still only in the lowest class. The impending election represents the first test-examination held to ascertain the progress which has been made. For a variety of reasons the teaching during the last three years has been less efficient than was hoped, and now the test is unreasonably severe. If the scholars as a whole fail to satisfy it, there may be grounds for improving the educational machinery, or even for remodelling it; but there will be no reason for abandoning the attempt to educate. If, on the other hand, the scholars show some ability to attack the problem, it will be possible to conclude that their natural aptitude is greater than had been foreseen, and the work of education can go forward, possibly with some acceleration, on the lines already adopted. As we have said already, we do not attempt to forecast the outcome; but it is permissible to express the hope, which is shared by all the friends of India, that the electorate as a whole will establish a claim to be regarded as, at the least, a democracy in the making.

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ABYSSINIA.

(From Our Addis Abeba Correspondent.)

End of September.

Abyssinia and the League.

In my letter of last month I reported the departure of the Abyssinian Mission to Geneva. The instructions given to the Mission before departure limited their duties to the delivery of a letter from the Abyssinian Government to the Secretariat of the League of Nations containing a formal application for the admission of Abyssinia to membership of the League. The Mission was not authorised to negotiate with the League, nor to enter into any agreements on behalf of the Abyssinian Government. As it was anticipated that the Assembly of the League would impose conditions on the entry of Abyssinia into the League, and as the Mission was not competent to commit the Abyssinian Government in any way, it was thought improbable that the present Mission would achieve any definite result. It would appear, however, that the Assembly of the League, having decided already that in principle the entry of Abyssinia into the League is desirable, are anxious to settle the matter forthwith. They have got over the difficulty of the incompetency of the Mission by telegraphing direct to the Abyssinian Government a formula containing the assurances which would be required to be given to the League by the Abyssinian Government before the Assembly could give its consent to the Government's application. They intimated at the same time that if the Abyssinian Government will authorise their delegates at Geneva to give the required assurances the admission of Abyssinia into the League would follow as a matter of course. After prolonged and earnest discussion the Abyssinian Government have decided to instruct their delegates to sign a declaration drawn up in the exact terms of the formula proposed by the Assembly and to submit it to the Assembly on behalf of the Abyssinian Government. These instructions were telegraphed to the Mission on September 26, and it is therefore probable that before this letter appears in print Abyssinia will be a member of the League.

In accepting the formula prescribed by the League, the Abyssinian Government have engaged themselves under three separate headings—first, to be bound by the provisions of the Covenant of the League; secondly, to conform to the principles of the Convention of September 10, 1919, of St. Germain, concerning the arms traffic in Africa, and to respect the existing arrangements created by that Convention regulating the import of arms into Abyssinia; and lastly to furnish all information required by the League and to take into consideration all recommendations made by the League on the subject of the execution of these engagements. That the Abyssinian Government should have accepted the stipulation with regard to the import of arms into Abyssinia is somewhat remarkable, seeing that one of the main reasons which induced them to seek entrance into the League was the hope that they could thereby secure a reversal of the present policy of the Powers with regard to this particular question. It cannot be doubted that they intend to raise the matter again at the first convenient opportunity.

If, as now seems certain, the Abyssinian Mission will return in triumph from Geneva, their object achieved, a large share of the credit will be given to the French Government—and deservedly so. It is understood that, although the Abyssinian Government have coquetted with the idea for a considerable time past, it was the advice of the French Government which led them to consider seriously the question of securing admittance to the League, and once the application was made the French Government used all their influence to obtain for it the favourable consideration of the League. During the discussions at Geneva the Abyssinian Government have utilised the good offices of the French Government in many ways.

Great Britain and Italy.

I understand that very little information has been as yet received by the Abyssinian Government from the Mission as to the course of the discussions, but some days ago Dajazmach Nado, the head of the Mission, telegraphed that the application of the Abyssinian Government was being strenuously opposed by Great Britain and Italy. On receipt of this information the Abyssinian Government telegraphed directly to the British and Italian Governments, requesting to be informed of the nature of their objections to the inclusion of Abyssinia in the League. It is stated on good authority that replies were received from both Governments suggesting that the Abyssinian Government had been misinformed and that there was no intention on their part to oppose the entry of Abyssinia into the League. The incident has not, however, added to the goodwill entertained by the Abyssinians for either of these two Powers. It may be said at once that the opposition of Italy was to be expected. The enmity between Italy and Abyssinia is always latent, and on occasions such as these rises quietly to the surface just to remind people that it is still there. There is an impression here that the Italian Government meant to oppose the entrance of Abyssinia into the League at all costs, but that they suddenly changed their minds during the course of the discussions at Geneva. The cause of this *volte face* is still to seek. It was anticipated that the British delegate at Geneva would be compelled by the anti-slavery agitation in England to raise the question of slavery in connection with the eligibility of Abyssinia for admission to the League, and that he would also press for the maintenance of restrictions on the import of arms. On the strength of certain information received from London it was not expected, however, that Great Britain would raise any objection to the Abyssinian claim which could not be successfully met. But it is unfortunately true that the attitude of Great Britain has counted for very little in the present instance. Great Britain is at the moment the reverse of popular, and is the object of considerable mistrust. This is due in chief measure to the aloofness which has been the main characteristic of British policy for some time past. You cannot persuade the Abys-

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sinians that Great Britain has no interest in this country, and a "don't care" attitude merely gives rise to suspicion. Moreover, in Oriental countries there are always interested persons eager to cause mischief, and it is not wise to leave them a clear field.

Foreign Interest.

To those with eyes to see, it is clear that forces have been set in motion which can lead only to one result—the early development of a country of immense potential resources. And to such the situation offers immense possibilities. The Belgians are first in the field. It came to my knowledge by chance two years ago that the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs were extremely well informed about Abyssinia. And I was puzzled. I see more clearly now. The Belgians have for some years past been exploiting coffee plantations in the mountains of the Harrar Province with a success not hitherto attained by foreign agricultural enterprise. The Belgian Government were interested, and presumably set themselves to study the problem of Abyssinia. A year ago a Belgian obtained a concession for the monopoly of the manufacture and import of alcohol into Abyssinia. The conditions imposed on the concessionnaire by the Abyssinian Government made the concession unworkable, but a strong Belgian financial group took the matter up under the auspices of the Belgian Government and formed a company known as the "Régie Imperiale des Alcools en Ethiopie," with a capital of 7,000,000 Belgian francs, which was subsequently increased to 10,000,000 francs by the addition of British and French capital. The Président of the Company, Sénateur Le Jeune, has recently arrived in Addis Abeba to arrange, if possible, a modification of the concession which will make it workable. It appears that in granting a concession for a monopoly of the import of alcohol the Abyssinian Government acted contrary to the spirit of existing treaties with the French and others. The French and Italian Governments protested, but it is understood that their acquiescence has now been secured. The chief point to notice in all this is that it is sought to establish a "Régie d'état" in Abyssinia with a foreign company acting as agent for the Government. The administration of this Régie will require organisation of a high order, and the Belgian Government have already sent to the spot an expert of great reputation and experience to advise the Government should they come to an agreement with the company. That a serious European concern should be associated with the Abyssinian Government in an administrative capacity can hardly fail to have far-reaching results. It is worth while watching the progress of this affair with the closest attention.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Britain, Turkey, and India.

In the *Asiatic Review* of October Sir Abbas Ali Baig, in an article called "Peace with Turkey in Its Relation to Anglo-Muslim Goodwill and the Khalifat," welcomes the Treaty of Lausanne as a "diplomatic triumph." It gives, he says, "full scope to the renascent aspirations of the Osmanlis." The referring to the League of Nations of the question of Mosul, however, is not approved, because "the League has not justified the confidence of small nations in its power or even desire to right their wrongs," and, "until its constitution rests on a broader basis, with an adequate representation of Eastern interests, it cannot be expected to command the confidence of mankind in its independence and impartiality." The article concludes with a statement of the regard in which Turkey is held by the Moslem world. But heart-searchings have been caused by the action of Angora in reducing the power of the Khalif, and it is realised that "an Imam shorn of the adjuncts and trappings of a Sultanate, and powerless to take any action as the Defender of the Faith, can hardly serve as a strong link symbolising the unity of Islam." And—

> This idea has given rise to a widespread feeling as to the reconstitution of the Khalifat on the basis of a strictly limited Sultanate, as in the case of the monarchical status of His Britannic Majesty, without in any way impairing the secular and political authority of the National Assembly or running counter to the ideals of Turkish Nationalists. Such reconstitution, comprising a small synod or committee of Ulemas representative of all important Muslim races for regulating the Khalifa's religious functions, and co-operating with a Cabinet of Ministers chosen by and responsible to the Grand National Assembly for the Government of the Turkish State, may bring about a solution of the Khalifat problem without coming into collision with the changed and changing conditions resulting from the upheaval of modern democratic forces.
>
> Peace with Turkey has greatly improved Anglo-Muslim relations throughout the world of Islam. It has evoked widespread rejoicings all over India; it has poured balm over the wounded and exasperated feeling of Muslim India; it has raised expectations that the far-sighted policy of Beaconsfield may again be followed to the mutual advantage of Great Britain and Islam. Friendly feeling between Muslims and Englishmen is being re-established. British prestige has improved in all parts of the Muslim world.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Ottoman Debt Report.

Sir Adam Block's special report on the Ottoman Public Debt, which will be found elsewhere in these columns, is naturally the object of particular interest on this occasion, now that Turkey is at last at peace and is in a position to devote its undivided attention to the question of economic reconstruction. The report, which is much later than usual owing to the desire to incorporate the financial clauses of the Treaty of Lausanne, gives a succinct survey of the position with regard to Turkey. Sir Adam points out that Turkey is in the fortunate situation of having emerged from the War with the least war debt of all the belligerent Powers, and has been relieved of a considerable proportion of its pre-war external debt. It would be difficult to over-estimate the importance of this factor, and its effect on the question of the financial and economic recovery of Turkey should be very marked. The exchange is naturally a matter of the first importance, but while Sir Adam emphasises the point that Turkey is justified in feeling anxiety with regard to the currency, his view is that the restoration of commercial relations and the unfettered exchange of commodites will bring about an improvement. He adds that "with a reasonable adaptation of taxation, with a reduction of expenditure, and with a sound Budget, Turkey should in a short time have no more difficulty in meeting its engagements than before the War."

The Bondholders.

As regards the position of the bondholders, Sir Adam has naturally much of interest to say. The Treaty of Lausanne left the question of the currency of the service of the loans untouched, and Sir Adam urges that the negotiations between the Turkish Government and the bondholders ought not to be delayed. On two occasions, he points out, the bondholders have made sacrifices, the second time being in 1903, when the agreement with the bondholders was embodied in the Decree of Muharrem. This contract was strictly observed by the Turkish Government up to the outbreak of the War, with the result that Turkish credit stood at a high level. It would, Sir Adam emphasises, "be a grave mistake" if Turkey contemplated any change in the relations with its creditors. "Independence might then become isolation," he remarks, "and Turkey would find itself excluded from borrowing the money so necessary to develop its resources and repair the damages caused by the War." As regards the Debt service, Sir Adam's statement will be noted with interest that despite the depreciation of the Turkish pound the present yield of the ceded revenues is sufficient to cover the service of the Unified Debt and the Lots Turcs provided the Debt Council is enabled to collect them. Unfortunately, the Angora Government has interfered to a considerable extent with the collection of the ceded revenues, and for 1922-23 the estimated net revenue shows a decrease of £T1,379,000 on the figures of the previous year, while for the current year up to August the gross receipts only amounted to £T900,000.

Trade with Russia.

The announcement of the formation of a Russo-British grain export company is an event of the first importance, representing as it does a landmark in the development of Russia's trade relations with the rest of the world. The effect of Russia's absence from the world's markets has been very pronounced, and owing to the consequences of events since 1914, and in particular since the Revolution, Russia's re-entry into the commercial orbit has been handicapped, apart from political considerations, by the fact that the country has had little to export, and, having no credit, has been unable to make purchases abroad. Conditions have now largely improved, and it is understood that there is a very considerable amount of grain available for export. Through the medium of the grain export company the marketing of Russia's grain surplus will be rendered possible, and Russia will thus be placed in possession of the funds necessary for the purchase of manufactured goods. British industry will certainly benefit by this development, which will indirectly also be distinctly advantageous, for Russia was one of the great suppliers of foodstuffs before the War, and her re-entry into the market, even if at first in a minor rôle, means the commencement of the reduction of purchases across the Atlantic, and a consequent readjustment of values.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The prevailing conditions find a reflection in the report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, which shows a decline in net profits owing to the adverse market position. The cotton crop increased from 11,400 bales to 12,300 bales, but as a result of the conditions it had not been fully disposed of by the close of the year. The net profits amounted to £85,082, as compared with £131,627, and the proposed final dividend of 2s. per share brings the division up to 17½ per cent., as compared with last year's dividend of 25 per cent. and a bonus of 10 per cent. The dividend is paid this time on a capital increased by £150,000, and it will be remembered that at the last general meeting the chairman indicated that it was not to be expected that the rate would be maintained at first. In view of developments in the Sudan, however, there is little doubt that shareholders will not have to wait very long before receiving a much-enhanced return.

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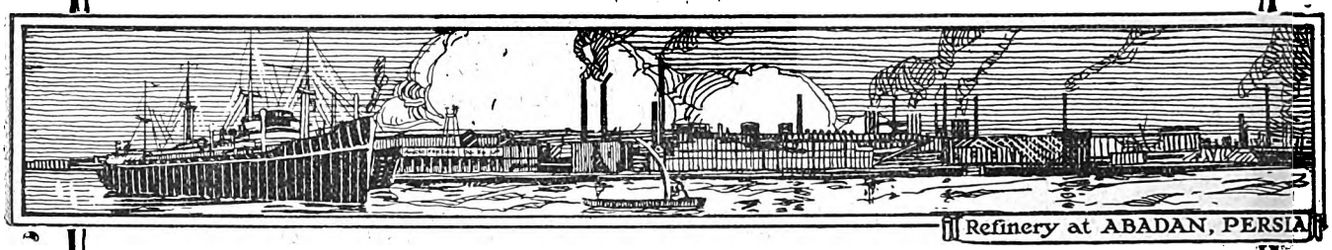

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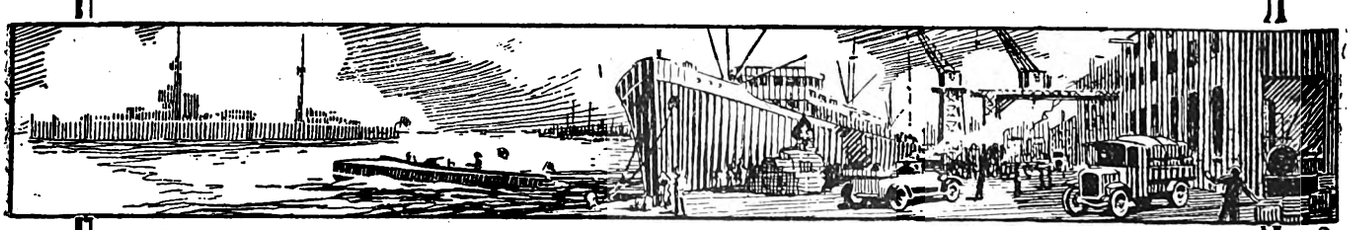

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THE OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT.

Outlook for Bondholders.

In a special report on the Ottoman Public Debt, which has just been issued, Sir Adam Block, K.C.M.G., the representative of the British and Dutch bondholders, points out that of all the belligerent Powers Turkey has emerged from the War with the least heavy war debt. He continues :—

By the arrangements with regard to the contributive parts to be paid by the States detached after the Balkan War and the Great War, Turkey has been relieved of a considerable proportion, say, 40 per cent., of its pre-war external indebtedness. It may be noted that some of the Detached States in Asia, as Turkish statesmen have themselves admitted, were a positive drag on the Turkish Treasury.

The vexed question of the currency in which the service of the loans should be made was left unsettled by the Treaty; but the Allied Powers affirmed the full and complete validity of the Decree of Muharrem and of other existing loan contracts, and reserved to themselves the right to uphold the principle that Turkey's engagements towards its private creditors are binding as long as they are not modified between the parties concerned.

Turkey is justified to some extent in feeling anxiety with regard to the exchange value of its currency; but if commercial relations are forthwith restored, and if nothing is done to hamper the free exchange of products and commodities there is no reason why there should not be an improvement in this respect. The remedy is in the hands of the Turkish Government. Up till now Turkey has been wise enough not to resort to the expedient, adopted by other countries, of issuing unlimited quantities of more or less worthless currency. With a reasonable readaptation of taxation, with a reduction of expenditure, and with a sound Budget, Turkey should in a short time have no more difficulty in meeting its engagements than before the war. In spite of the fall in the value of the Turkish pound, the present yield of the ceded revenues at any rate is sufficient to cover the service of the Unified Debt and of the Lots Turcs, provided that the Debt Council is enabled to collect these revenues in accordance with the Decree of Muharrem. The negotiations that are now foreshadowed between the Turkish Government and the bondholders should not be delayed. The former will doubtless not lose sight of the fact that, after the bankruptcy of Turkey in 1875, the bondholders, after long and laborious discussions, consented to very heavy sacrifices, the principal of this old Debt being scaled down 45 per cent. A further sacrifice was made at the time of the Unification in 1903.

This agreement was embodied in the Decree of Muharrem. By that decree the Ottoman Government ceded to its creditors absolutely and irrevocably certain specified revenues for the service of the then existing debt, and granted certain rights and privileges to the Council of Administration of the Debt, a representative body appointed by the bondholders. Thanks to the efforts of the Council thus constituted, and to the strict observance of the terms of this solemn contract by the Turkish Government, the sacrifices made by the bondholders were to some extent mitigated. The Debt coupons were regularly paid, and Turkish credit attained a high level in the money markets of Europe until the outbreak of the War in 1914.

At a moment when an independent and enfranchised New Turkey takes its place on equal terms with the Western Powers it would be a grave mistake if any change in the relations with its creditors were contemplated. Independence might then become isolation, and Turkey would find itself excluded from borrowing the money so necessary to develop its resources and repair the damages caused by the War. The respect of existing contracts by foreign Governments borrowing on the London money market is a principle of such cardinal importance to the interest of existing creditors and of present and future borrowers that Turkey would be well advised not to attempt taking any steps which would tend to invalidate the provisions of the Muharrem Decree. At a meeting between a delegate of the Turkish Government and the bondholders, held in Paris on May the 23rd last, the principle of the respect of existing contracts was reaffirmed by the latter. There the matter rests at present. An early settlement of the points at issue is most essential to the interests of all parties.

The bondholders will doubtless be interested to know the exact situation of the Unified Coupons in arrear. These coupons may be classed in three categories :—(1) The War Coupons: For these coupons (Nos. 23 to 33) the Council has paid a sum on account on 16,937,986 coupons of 2s. per coupon, viz., a sum of £1,693,798 12s., leaving a balance unpaid of £5,081,395 16s. For the moment there is little prospect of any further payment on account with respect to these coupons, although certain sums may be available later on when the contributive parts of the Detached States are forthcoming, and if a settlement is come to with regard to the sums deposited in Germany during the War. (2) The Coupons (Nos. 34 to 37) of September, 1920, to March, 1922, have received a payment on account of 6s., leaving a balance of unemployed funds of about £150,000, which represents about 5d. per coupon for 6,570,947 coupons. (3) Of the Coupons (Nos. 38 and 39) of September, 1922, and March, 1923, only No. 38 has received a payment of 6s., requiring £496,752 taken from the receipts of 1922-23 (estimated at £T6,260,000).

Until the Detached States commence payments of the contributive parts, both annual and in respect of arrears, the Council, much to its regret, does not feel justified in paying a further sum on account of the coupons Nos. 34 to 39, while any distribution on account of the coupon No. 40 (September, 1923) is at present out of the question. The Council recognises that spasmodic payments of coupons is not altogether desirable, but in the circumstances it was the only way of giving partial satisfaction to the bondholders.

Since October, 1922, the receipts have been falling steadily, owing to the action of the Angora Government, which has held back all the receipts from the ceded revenues, except certain local receipts in Constantinople and the immediately surrounding districts. I estimate that a sum of 10,000,000 of Turkish liras appertaining to the Unified Loan and Lottery Bonds has been thus taken in the three fiscal years from March, 1920, to February, 1923. This action on the part of the Angora Government is an infraction of the Decree of Muharrem. The Council is now also deprived of the Customs Surtax in Constantinople (estimated at £T3,000,000 since the beginning of 1922), and the spirits revenue and stamp tax are also falling owing to hasty and confused legislation.

For the year 1922-23 the estimated net revenue is £T1,379,000 below that of 1921-22. The present year 1923-24 will show an even less satisfactory result; and since the beginning of the year up to the end of July the gross receipts of the Council only amount to £T900,000. These are the receipts in Constantinople and immediate surroundings.

In conclusion, I would observe that Turkey is now free to concentrate all efforts on the reconstruction of the country. From November, 1914, to the

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present moment Turkey may be said to have been at war. It will be a laborious task to repair the wastage caused by these prolonged hostilities and to restore the prosperity of the country. Hitherto, I regret to say, little or nothing has been done in this respect. There is no reason why the task should not now at once be taken in hand. The Turkish Government may rest assured that, whenever called upon, the Debt Council will spare no pains to second their efforts to the best of its ability.

In addition to the annual report of the Debt Council, the report also contains the financial clauses of the Treaty of Lausanne.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN SOVIET ARMENIA.

"Conditions in Armenia and throughout Russia are now on the upgrade," says the Rev. H. W. Harcourt, who has just returned to England after spending 3½ years in Erivan as director of relief work for the Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund. A satisfactory harvest in 1922 stimulated the bringing of additional land under cultivation, and this year, in all parts of Transcaucasia, except a few districts affected by drought or locusts, the crops are excellent. Erivan, the capital of Soviet Armenia, Mr. Harcourt states, is quite different from the town he knew in 1920. Buildings have been repaired, streets remade, and trees planted. The refugee population is gradually being absorbed, and there are fewer beggars about the streets than ever before. Irrigation works for the purpose of encouraging cotton growing have been pushed ahead with remarkable success. In 1922 only 500 dessiatines were under cotton. This year there are about 10,000 dessiatines (1 dessiatine equals 2¼ acres), and it is hoped to reach 30-40,000 dessiatines next year. In view of the diminishing world-production of cotton this development is of great importance.

Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, though linked together in a Transcaucasian Federation, retain control of police, education, and cultural matters, and public health. The local languages are encouraged rather than suppressed. The Federation has a common currency which is distinct from that of Russia, but it is proposed to introduce the Russian currency next January. Meanwhile, the chernovetz—the Russian rouble with gold backing—is coming more and more into general use for trade and commerce in Transcaucasia. Customs, railways, and military and foreign affairs are reserved to the Central Government at Moscow. Officially, by the way, the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (R.S.F.So.R.) has now become simply the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (U.S.S.R.), a change which appears not to have been noticed in Western Europe. The introduction of the high Russian tariff, combined with the monopolisation of foreign trade in the hands of quasi-Governmental trusts or syndicates, has given rise to a serious economic problem for the Transcaucasian peoples. Foreign goods can no longer be profitably imported via Constantinople and Batoum, and trade now passes almost entirely through Moscow. But under the shelter of the tariff wall the prices of all manufactured articles have increased enormously, whereas the prices of cereals are very low. Thus, unless some remedy is found, the peasant will do what he did in the early years of the revolution—merely grow enough corn for his own needs, because he will not be able to buy manufactured goods even if he grows a surplus. The danger, however, has been foreseen, and the authorities are considering measures for avoiding it.

The relief work which is now being carried on, and which is still necessary, is definitely constructive in character. The Armenian Refugees (Lord Mayor's) Fund, in co-operation with the authorities, has organised a child-welfare station and milk distributing centre (for mothers and expectant mothers); unfortunately, owing to a shortage of milk, both fresh and tinned, during the last few months, this work has had to be curtailed. The Fund has been of great assistance to the Government in combating tropical diseases by supplying drugs for the treatment of malaria and leprosy. An anti-malaria campaign organised by Dr. Popoff, who received his education in England, has been strikingly successful. This summer the number of malaria cases in Erivan has fallen to one-quarter of the previous figures. Still better results will be attained next year, when it is proposed to forbid the cultivation of rice, drain the swampy ground where it was grown, and raise cotton instead.

During last year the Fund was instrumental in saving 1,500 people from starvation. There were refugees from Turkish Armenia who had settled on the slopes of Mount Alagenz and had not managed to grow enough corn to maintain them through the winter. Mr. Harcourt brought in supplies, distributed rations to the adults, and established feeding stations for the children. Thanks to this timely help and a good harvest these people are now self-supporting.

One of the principal achievements of the Fund in this area during the past ten years has been the settlement of 6,000 Armenian refugees removed from Irak by the British Government, and an additional 1,000 refugees who came in from Persia. Many difficulties were encountered, but the task has been accomplished—and at the remarkably low cost of £6 5s. a head. Support of these colonies was withdrawn last June, and since then not a single application for further assistance has been received.

The Fund is still maintaining four orphanages in Erivan, where over 500 children between the ages of 3 and 16 are cared for and trained to become useful, self-supporting members of the community. The boys, on leaving school, attend technical classes, and are apprenticed to a trade. The girls are taught dressmaking, basketwork, lace-making and embroidery. Some of the lace and embroidery made in the orphanages was recently shown at the Moscow Exhibition and attracted much attention for the quality of workmanship and design. If economic conditions continue to improve the local authorities, it is hoped, will be in a position to take over these orphanages. Until then the children must remain dependent on the Fund, which in its turn can only look to the British public to enable it to carry through the work which it has been doing for the past seven years.

FORMATION OF COMPANIES IN EGYPT

A notice published in the Egyptian *Journal Officiel* states that the Council of Ministers has decided that in future companies desiring to be created in Egypt must conform to the following conditions in addition to those already laid down by the Decisions of the Council of May 6, 1899, and June 18, 1906:—(1) One of the directors of the company must be an Egyptian national; (2) one quarter of the amount of any public issue of capital must be reserved for the Egyptian market; (3) companies making a public issue of capital must have the shares and debentures issued quoted on the Egyptian Bourse within one year from the date of issue; (4) balance-sheets, profit and loss accounts, and reports of the directors must be published in two daily newspapers circulating in the district where the general meeting is to be held and 15 days at least before the date of that meeting.

NEW COMPANIES.

Southern European Metals.

The Southern European Metals Corporation, Ltd., has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £150,000 in £1 shares. The objects are: To organise, finance, and develop the production, transport, and marketing of all kinds of metals and mineral substances; to acquire lands, mines, and mineral properties, or other authorities over mines, forest-cutting, and other rights in the Southern European States or elsewhere; to carry on business as financiers, engineers, etc. Registered office, 20, Copthall Avenue, E.C.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA :-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-: BOURGAS VARNA CONSTANZA AND SULINA also from——LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE FIUME GRAVOSA

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-: GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO HAVRE ST. MALO AND DIEPPE

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OFFICES AND AGENCIES EVERYWHERE

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British Consular Reports.

VIII.—PERSIA (*Concluded*).

For the year 1921-1922, the first five countries trading with Persia, in their order of importance, were :—

	Imports. Krans.	Exports. Krans.	Total. Krans.
British Empire, including India	462,100,000	159,000,000	621,100,000
Egypt	17,500,000	199,400,000	216,900,000
Russia	41,700,000	26,500,000	68,200,000
Irak	8,300,000	44,400,000	52,700,000
U.S.A.	5,500,000	29,500,000	35,000,000

The British Empire therefore accounted for nearly 60 per cent. of Persia's trade, although it must be remembered that a certain quantity of the articles indexed by the Customs authorities in Persia as coming from Great Britain or from India are certainly not of British manufacture or origin, but were merely consigned from these countries. This proportion has slightly decreased during the subsequent year, so far as can be ascertained, owing to a revival of trade with Italy, France, and Germany in particular. The disparity between the import and export figures for the British Empire account for the depreciation of the kran on the British and Indian markets.

Persia's chief imports and exports during 1921-1922 in their order of importance were (value in krans) :—Imports.—Cotton piece goods, 188,600,000; sugar, 141,300,000; nails, screws, iron piping, etc., 33,200,000; tea, 31,300,000. Exports—Oil and kindred substances, such as petrol, benzine, etc., 322,600,000; carpets and rugs, 66,100,000; dried and fresh fruits, 26,900,000; opium, 15,400,000.

Imports during the year totalled 55 per cent. of the total foreign trade, and exports 45 per cent. This ratio, so far as can be ascertained, remained virtually unchanged during the following year. Of the commodities quoted above, the British Empire during the same period supplied cotton piece goods to a value of 185 million krans and tea valued at 30 million krans, as well as almost the entire quantity of Persia's importation of nails, screws, and iron piping The chief sources of Persia's sugar were British India, which supplied 67 million krans worth: Belgium, whence came 27 million krans worth; and Egypt, which supplied sugar to the value of 17 million krans. It is probable that a large proportion of the sugar supplied by India is not of Indian origin, since a certain amount is known to come from the Dutch East Indies, and more is probably imported in the first place from France, Egypt, and other countries for re-export to Persia via Duzdap and the Persian Gulf.

Of the exports, a large proportion of the oil and kindred products of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were consigned in the first place to Egypt for subsequent distribution to their ultimate destinations, and it is to this fact that Egypt largely owes her place as the second country on Persia's foreign trade list.

It is worthy of note that of Persia's total export trade of 502 million krans for the year 1921-1922 the products of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company were valued at nearly 323 million krans, or 64 per cent. of the country's exports. Rugs and carpets exported from Persia are mostly destined for the United States of America, although a certain number are also sent to England and the Continent and large consignments reach the U.S.A. through British firms, to whom they are sent in the first place by the agents of the latter in Persia.

The value of Persia's opium trade is accounted for by the superior morphine content of her product, and by far the most profitable trade in South Persia during the year 1922-1923 has been the export of opium through the Persian Gulf. With the gathering of the new crop prices have dropped considerably, but as recently as the month of May, 1923, krans 650 to 700 per batman were obtainable at Shiraz and Bushire for this commodity. Since that date prices have fallen to one-half or even one-third of these figures, but the restriction of the sale of opium by the League of Nations will inevitably be a severe blow to Persia unless a substitute can be found to take its place in the extensive poppy fields of South Persia. Experiments have been made on a small scale with cotton, for which the soil is said to be unsuitable, and this commodity may also be suitable for cultivation in Seistan, but the opium growers at present look with misgiving at the loss of their trade. The export of cotton from Khorassan through the Caspian ports during the first six months of 1923 has caused a sharp rise in the price of that commodity, for which an increasing demand appears to exist in Russia. Ispahan and Khorassan cotton are also exported to India, but are said to be of inferior quality owing to lack of expert knowledge and cultivation of inferior short staple varieties, and the prices realised do not appear to justify the heavy cost of transport through Persia to Duzdap or the Persian Gulf.

Natural Resources.

The natural resources of the country, with the single exception of its mineral oils, have not as yet been either properly ascertained or exploited. For instance, coal, which is believed to exist in considerable quantities in the hills north of Teheran and in other parts of Persia, is at present only mined by digging shallow surface pits during the summer to supply the winter needs of the capital or nearest towns and villages. The remainder of the population's needs is met by bringing charcoal over the mountains from Mazanderan Gilan and elsewhere, and as the lack of proper roads make it necessary to transport all supplies of both these articles by mule, the cost of transport is out of all proportion to the initial cost of production. As a result, coal costs on an average £7 a ton, charcoal £11 a ton, and wood in limited quantities from local supplies £3 10s. a ton in Teheran. Similarly, the cost of transport makes it impossible to export the surplus grain of the province of Fars, of which there is a considerable quantity in years when the harvest is good, to the Persian Gulf ports, or inland to other provinces where there may be a shortage, and the landowners are credibly reported to be constrained during the present year to burn their surplus crops or to leave them to rot in the fields. Endeavours are, however, being made to organise cheap animal transport to the coast in order to prevent this waste. As in the case of her other trade, the problem of the development of Persia's natural resources hinges upon the establishment of cheap and modern methods of transportation, without which she cannot compete with foreign countries in exporting her products.

Given a reorganisation of her finances and construction of a proper system of crossable roads throughout the country, as well as strict supervision of road tolls and taxes, Persia should be able to look forward to an early revival of her trade and to increased material prosperity for her population, which has during the past few years suffered considerable hardships. Increased and cheaper methods of communication are, however, essential to such a revival.

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BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

THE TENTH BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR, synchronising as it does with the British Empire Exhibition, 1924, will attract next year the keenest buyers from all parts of the world.

The leading and most enterprising British firms will lay before buyers their unique manufacturing resources and demonstrate their ability to supply the best and most dependable products for the coming season's trade.

Complete arrangements have been made to ensure the comfort of every Home and Overseas Visitor, and it will be possible to do a year's buying with the maximum amount of economy and convenience in a week.

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Organised by the Department of Overseas Trade.

APRIL 28th—MAY 9th.

(White City, W.)

Musical Instruments. Furniture and Basketware. Sports Goods, Toys, etc. Jewellery, Silverware, Cutlery, etc. Scientific and Photographic Goods. Chemicals and Drugs. Stationery and Printing. Fancy Goods. Travelling Requisites, etc. Brushware. China, Earthenware, Stoneware and Glassware. Foodstuffs and Beverages. Fancy Leather Goods, Leather, etc.

1924

BIF

BIRMINGHAM

Organised by the Municipality & Chamber of Commerce

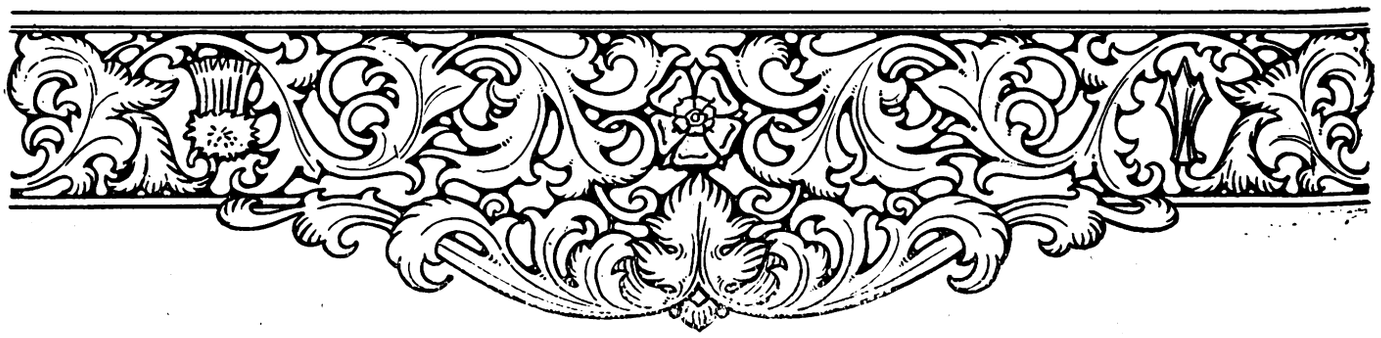
MAY 12th—MAY 23rd.

(Castle Bromwich).

Brassfoundry, Hardware and Ironmongery. Metals. Construction, Building and Decoration. Power, Lighting, Heating, Cooking and Ventilating. Engineering in all Branches. Agricultural Machinery. Mining Appliances. Motors, Motor Cycles, Cycle Accessories, Perambulators. Guns, Saddlery and Harness, Fishing Tackle. Brewing and Distilling Appliances.

VISIT THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR WHEN YOU ARE OVER FOR THE BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION.

Descriptive Booklets and Invitation Tickets may be obtained from nearest British Legation, Consulate, Trade Commissioner, or the Secretary, British Industries Fair, 35, Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, or of the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham, England.



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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended September 15 :—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas on the market since the opening of the season amount to 9,005 tons, and the estimated sales to date total 7,130 tons. The tendency of the market throughout the week has been upwards, prices gaining about 2s. per cwt. The advance was counteracted at the close by a sudden improvement in the exchange, which, after gradually declining in the course of the week to Pts. 725 per £ sterling, recovered sharply on Saturday to Pts. 780. The exchange closed firm at Pts. 770/780 per £ sterling. Heavy purchases were effected towards the close of the week.

A later report dated September 29 states :—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 13,000 tons, while the sales to date are put at 11,000 tons. The exchange has been steady throughout the week at 760-65. Market prices generally have shown a tendency to weaken. The lowest grades are attracting attention owing to cheapness. The best qualities are maintained in price by reason of scarcity.

A further report, dated October 6, states :—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas now total 13,920 tons, and the estimated sales to date amount to 12,480 tons. Business has shown more activity than during the preceding week, the heaviest transactions reported being on low grades. Very fine sorts are in demand, but, owing to scarcity, dealers are holding out for rather extreme prices. Although some small divergence of views exists, it is now generally accepted that the production is likely to prove between 28,000 and 30,000 tons. Prices prevailing are ruinous to farmers. In order to afford some relief and stem the pressure to sell, the Government, through the agricultural banks, is arranging to give advances to the farmers at the rate of £T10 per bag, and a commencement has already been made in the Magnesia and other districts. This advance is equal to between 25 to 50 per cent. of the value of the fruit up country, dependent on quality. Furthermore, the War Department contemplates buying some quantity of fruit for the Army. As a consequence of these measures, which are now materialising, and the strong demand which has been recorded during the week and is still continuing, prices for all qualities have firmed up, both up country and on the Smyrna market.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following further extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for August :—

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—13 ardebs of red sesame were sold in El Obeid market during the month at an average price of £E.140 per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos.).

White Nile Province.—Sesame is good in places, and the late sown crops are reported as doing well. Quantities brought in for sale in ardebs of 330 rottles (148 kilos.): Tendelti, 117; Kosti, 3; Dueim, 10. 583 ardebs of red sesame were exported from Tendelti in August. Prices, per ardeb, were: Dueim £E.185; Kosti, £E.155.

Dura.

Dongola Province.—The sefi dura is now being harvested and the yield is up to the average. Birds, having found other food, are not doing so much damage. For a week or so grain prices were unusually high, especially in the Northern districts.

White Nile Province.—The dura crop should be above the average, though it was attacked by pest and many parts have been sown three or four times.

Dates.

Dongola Province.—The date crop is reported to be excellent, the damage by rain being slight. It is estimated that approximately 10,000 tons will be available for export, of which the greater part is "Barakawi" and "Jau."

Halfa Province.—The date crop is approaching harvesting, and, in general, is reported as far above the average. In previous years it has been the custom for date merchants to be in the Sukkot and Mahas District during this month. This year there is so far no sign of them. The crop should be ready for picking early in September.

Market prices per sack of 140-145 kilos: Barakawi £E.2.200 m.ms.; Gondeila £E.3.000 m.ms.; Gargoda £E.1.900 m.ms.

This season's date crop in Halfa Province is stated to be approximately as follows: Gondeila, 700 tons; Gargoda, 1,100 tons; Barakawi, 3,300 tons.

BRITISH INSURANCE IN TURKEY.

When the new Turkish regulations with regard to foreign insurance companies transacting business in Turkey came into force British companies withdrew from Constantinople. A notable exception was the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Ltd., which has continued to carry on business there through its agents, Messrs. Clifton and P. D. Courtelly. This company does an important business throughout the Near East and India, and has representatives in most of the principal centres. Messrs. F. W. Cuming and Co., Ltd., of Alexandria, have represented it in Egypt and the Sudan since 1903, and since the war control the company's sub-agents in Syria. The company has long had an agency in Salonika; this continued to work during the war, and in 1921 came under the control of the company's newly-appointed agents for Greece, Messrs. Courtelly and Douma, of Athens. The Salonika agent of the company, Dr. A. N. Papasoglou, also manages the business of the sub-agents in Uskub, in view of the fact that the requirements and regulations of the Yugoslav Government make it impossible for the company to operate through an office established in that country. In India, where the company is particularly well known, especially in connection with accident and motor-car insurance, the chief office is in Bombay, under Mr. L. G. B. Gould, and there is a branch office in Calcutta, and agencies in Madras, Rangoon, Karachi, and other important centres. In Mesopotamia the chief agents of the company are the firm of Messrs. Cotterell and Greig, of Baghdad.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Paper, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Buláq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper, bristol board, and grey board. November 24.

Paper, etc.—The Central Stationery Stores, Ministry of Finance, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of paper and stationery required for the year 1924-1925. November 29.

Roumania.

Jute Cloth.—The Direction General of the State Monopolies, Roumania, invites tenders for the supply and delivery, franco the various establishments of the Monopoly, of a total quantity of 300,500 metres of jute cloth for sacks and packing purposes. Tenders are due to be presented in Bucharest by November 7. (D.O.T.)

The directors of the Indo-European Telegraph Company have declared an interim dividend for the half-year ended June 30 at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, free of tax, payable on and after November 1.

INDO-EUROPEAN TELEGRAPH COMPANY
(LIMITED)
Through Communication Restored
QUICKEST ROUTE TO
S. RUSSIA, TURKEY, IRAQ, PERSIA, INDIA AND FAR EAST
18 Old Broad Street, E.C. And Branches

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SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

The report of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate for the year ended June 30, 1923, states that the net profit was £85,082, as compared with £131,627 for the previous twelve months. Including £162,300 brought forward, the total credit is £247,382. The directors recommend a final dividend of 2s. per share, making 17½ per cent., less tax, for the year, the balance carried forward being £168,632. During the season the cotton crops dealt with totalled 12,266 bales, as against 11,386 bales. Owing to the unsettled market conditions less than half the season's Gezira crop had been disposed of at June 30 last. The stock of cotton is consequently entered in the balance-sheet at a valuation made by the directors which subsequent sales have shown to be conservative. Meeting, Winchester House, November 8, noon.

WORK OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Imperial Institute for many years has been steadily endeavouring to further the development of the resources of the Empire, particularly with regard to the commercial and industrial utilisation of raw materials of all kinds. The best-known department of the Institute is its well-arranged Exhibition Galleries, open to the public and schools, in which are displayed the principal raw products and manufactures of the various parts of the Empire, accompanied by descriptive labels and illustrated by maps, diagrams, photographs and models. This is the only permanent exhibition of the kind in the Empire.

Less familiar to most people is the important work of the scientific and technical department, which investigates the new or little-known raw materials of the Empire, and suggests action for their commercial utilisation. The technical information bureau deals with inquiries of the most diverse origin and character connected with the production, utilisation and valuation of raw materials. A vast amount of information emanating from the Institute has been disseminated by means of the Institute's "Bulletin" and other publication, and also through other channels, including the Chambers of Commerce.

An opportunity of becoming better acquainted with the nature of the Institute's activities, and the many important results which have accrued from its work is now afforded in the issue of the "Bulletin of the Imperial Institute," which has just appeared. This publication is devoted to a comprehensive report on the operations of the Imperial Institute carried out by its different departments and various technical advisory committees. This record of the achievements of the Institute is of special importance at the present time, as indicating the useful nature of the work already accomplished for all parts of the Empire, which will no doubt receive full consideration at the present Imperial Conference.

It is announced that Sir Eric Geddes has consented to stand for election as President of the Federation of British Industries for a second year.

The progress reports of Phœnix Oil and Transport and allied companies for September show that the total crude oil production for the month was 8,936 tons and the throughput of the refineries 5,961 tons.

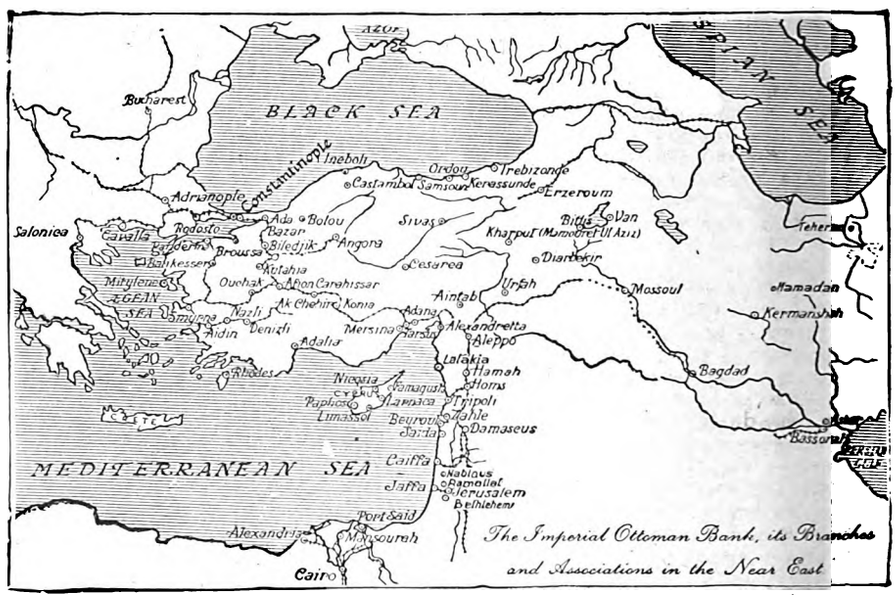
"STOCK & SHARE MARKETS."

Owing to pressure on our space this feature is unavoidably held over this week.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



CONSTANTINOPLE.

L. STEEG, Director-General.
A. H. REID, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR, E. HODLER } Sub-Directors. DJEVIAD BEY, HAMID BEY, NOURY BEY.

General Committee.

LONDON.

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E. W. H. BARRY.
THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

A Heavy Undertone.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 12 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has continued active, but the undertone has been distinctly heavy. A poor demand from abroad and some hedges against unsold arrivals are responsible for the heaviness of our market during the week. In consequence of the firmness of the New York market prices of American cotton have further approached those of the Egyptian. The difference between the Ashmouni October and Sakellarides November contracts has again slightly narrowed, and at to-day's close stands at $3.97, against $4.15 a week ago. The strength of long staple American, of which Ashmouni is the usual substitute, and the consequent larger demand that Uppers have enjoyed abroad compared to Sakellarides, explain this narrowing. No dockets were issued on the second October tender. Speculators have been active, but have not committed themselves either way; most of the positions have been opened and closed during the same session. The Government has during the week intervened in the spot market, and has bought a few hundred bales; its object is solely to create confidence and bring purchasers into the market. To take upon itself the task of pushing up prices at the present period of the crop movement would necessitate very large purchases, and the financial outlay and risk of loss are too great to be undertaken by the Government. As long as the demand from abroad keeps as limited as at present, and arrivals continue to become daily heavier, it is probable that the market will remain somewhat heavy with a downward tendency.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 21,300 B/s for five days, of which we estimate 9,500 B/s Sakellarides, 11,400 B/s Uppers, 250 B/s Brown, and 150 B/s White. The Egyptian Government have bought about 400 B/s Sakellarides fully good fair to fully good fair to good during the week. Arrivals are heavy, but exports are also fairly good. The stock shows a substantial increase from last week.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the medium and good grades continue to attract most attention. Prices of spot against contracts are at last week's rates, except good, which is a little easier.

Uppers.—All grades have been dealt in. The bulk of the business has been in cotton from fully good fair to good and upwards, but cotton below fully good fair, which is as yet very scarce, has found a ready sale at very good prices, as there are apparently certain houses who need such cotton for early shipment. Prices of spot against contracts generally do not show much change from last week's quotations.

Brown and Pilion.—A fair business has been done in the better qualities at about last week's rates.

White.—A moderate business has been done in the better grades at unchanged rates.

Crop 1923.—Picking is now well advanced, and has already been completed in large areas. There is considerable congestion in the Upper Egypt factories. The Upper Egypt crop has undoubtedly been successful both as regards quantity and quality.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Improved Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 17:—

The week opened with a much improved inquiry, for which a strong overnight market in New York was entirely responsible. Visible results, however, were of small dimensions, and the remainder of the week has followed on similar lines. The spot inquiry has been rather poor latterly, but, whilst the daily sales have been small, spinners have been active in their inquiries, and a fair c.i.f. business has taken place, particularly in Uppers. Indeed, in some quarters, the opinion is held that a very good general c.i.f. business is taking place at the moment. During the week types of Sakellaridis grading strict G.F. and F.G.F. have been offered round at from "Pass" to "40 on" November Egyptian. Spot lots of F.G.F. Sakellaridis have become very scarce, and are eagerly snapped up at prices ranging from 90 to 125 on November. Good Sakellaridis and the grades above have been but little in request. For Uppers a good inquiry still continues, and 17⅜d. was paid to-day for Fine cotton, but buyers are taking only small quantities at a time. Most spinners have c.i.f. cotton at sea by now, and they know it is only a question of tiding over an intervening gap. The supply on the spot at the moment is very small. Business in Sudan cotton has been negligible. A small inquiry for White cotton (Best Abbassi, etc.) has been in evidence without visible result.

Prices at the moment appear to be largely supported by the American market, and we fear that for the next few weeks we are likely to see considerable fluctuations, with the weight of new arrivals having a tendency to depress prices on balance. Later we look for a revival. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 12th inst. were returned as 8,704 bales. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised 20 points, those of Brown and Upper 30 points. Estimated sales, 1,400 bales, and 150 bales Sudan cotton. F.G.F. Sakellaridis 18.40d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Unsatisfactory Conditions.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 20 states:—

Conditions continue to be unsatisfactory, and, unfortunately, there appear no grounds on which to base hopes of an early improvement. Prices offered by buyers abroad are still, in the main, on a basis which does not represent the cost of production; in many cases they are so far below it as to be really absurd. The suggestion is made, and is probably a correct one, that more business is being done than is acknowledged, since producers naturally do not care to refer particularly to business they are obliged to take at unprofitable rates. The further meeting of employers and operatives referred to a fortnight ago took place yesterday, and was adjourned for some days without any decision being arrived at.

Yarn.—The rise in raw cotton has been a hindrance to negotiations, buyers generally declining to follow the advance. If anything, the market has probably become slightly weaker during the last few days.

Cloth.—An extensive inquiry has been experienced, but, as usual, most of the prices mentioned have been inadequate. A quiet trade has been done for India and China. Reports from Egypt have been a little more favourable, and in some quarters hopes are expressed that more business will be forthcoming from that quarter. Other outlets call for no special mention, the quiet conditions previously reported being continued.

Raw Cotton.—Quotations have fluctuated considerably, the market being very strong during the early days of the week, following unfavourable weather reports, but a fall took place on the last two days. Buying in New York is said to have been fairly persistent, although, owing to the quiet state of trade here, operations in Liverpool are not extensive. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 17.14d.; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.20d.

EGYPTIAN TOURIST SEASON.

A conference was held recently at the offices of the Egyptian Government, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster, of representatives of Egyptian tourist interests, to pass in review the arrangements for the 1924 season and to consider the requirements for the 1925 season. Mr. H. W. Tite, of the International Sleeping Car Company, presided, and the others present included Brigadier-General Blakeney, C.M.G., D.S.O., general manager of the Egyptian State Railways; Mr. Gordon Clay, secretary-general of the Egyptian State Railways; Colonel Newcombe, D.S.O., traffic manager of the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers; Mr. Austin Bull, European traffic manager of the Sudan Government Railways and Steamers; Mr. Simpson, of the traffic department of the Palestine Railways; Mr. Clarke, of the Cunard Steamship Company; Mr. Charles Baehler, representing the Egyptian Hotels, Ltd., Grand Hotels of Egypt and Upper Egypt Hotels; Mr. N. Barillet, of the Heliopolis Palace Hotel; Mr. M. Calomiris, of the National Hotel; Messrs. Benjamin, Thaw, and Dring, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company; Mr. Percy, representing the Egypt Promotion Association; and representatives of Messrs. Thos. Cook and Sons, the White Star Line, and a number of American tourist agencies.

Royal Roumanian Government Loans.—Messrs. J. Henry Schröder and Co. announce that they have received funds for the payment of coupons from bonds which have been stamped by the special stamping commission in London. The relative bordereaux should be lodged with the coupons at 145, Leadenhall Street, E.C.3.

TEXTILES.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

ANCHOR LINE AND THE EXHIBITION.

In view of the forthcoming British Empire Exhibition, the Anchor Line have decided to send their new twin-screw geared turbine oil-burning steamer California, of 17,000 tons, for two trips to India next year, leaving Liverpool on February 29 and October 25. The vessel has accommodation for about 340 first-class and 270 second-class besides third-class passengers, and will make the voyage from the Mersey to Bombay in about 19 days.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 3).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahratta for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 3); s.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 17).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5); s.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Talma for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, October 27); s.s. Matiana for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 9); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 10); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 23).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Monroe for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, October 31).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Manchester for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 3).

Ellerman, Bucknall, and Strick Lines.—S.s. Jeypore for Persian Gulf (Manchester, November 6).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Mourino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, November 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This is the last steamer of the season for the Danube.) S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 17).

Moss Line.—S.s. Karnak for Malta, Piræus, Smyrna, Salonika, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, October 27).

Papayanni Line.—S s. Destro for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, November 3).

P. and O. Line.—S s. Maloja for Bombay (London, November 2); s.s. Nore for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta London, November 3); s.s. Dongola for Bombay (London, November 16); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

ATHENS WATER SUPPLY SCHEME.

The Athens correspondent of the *Bulletin* of the Federation of British Industries states that the Greek Government have drawn up particulars of a new scheme for the supply of water to Athens and the Piræus, which involves the utilisation of the Pentelicon Range near Marathon, and the canalisation of the water into an artificial lake near that village. The Greek Government have worked out an estimate of the cost, and are prepared, it is understood, to grant a concession to foreign interests for the carrying out of the installation and for the formation of a company to work the concession. This company would have the right to collect water rates, which every inhabitant of the districts affected would be legally obliged to pay.

Egyptian Unified.—The Bank of England are prepared to receive the coupons due November 1 on Egyptian Unified Bonds.

COMPANY MEETING.

ASSAM RAILWAYS AND TRADING.

The ordinary general meeting of the Assam Railways and Trading Company, Ltd., was held on October 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. George Turner, M.E. (chairman of the company), presiding.

The Chairman said that the accounts showed some improvement, and the company was able to resume the payment of dividend on the "B" stock. Their railway was a short metre-gauge line, but it was one of the most fully equipped in India, and carried a heavy traffic for a line of its character. His estimate of some years ago that the railway earnings would increase by 5 or 6 per cent. per annum had been borne out, and such increase was likely to go on for some time. They had not anticipated such heavy working costs, but they hoped to get them down to a better proportion of the receipts.

With regard to the collieries the general trading account showed a much better balance than in the preceding year, both the quantity sold and the receipts showing satisfactory increase; and in the near future they hoped to show considerable improvement on the expenditure side. With regard to their new concessions, the creosoting plant on the timber concessions had been completed, and sleepers and other timber were being treated. The veneer plant was at work, though only in its experimental stages, but they hoped to have tea chests on the market for next season.

Dealing with the investments, he said that the investment in 20,000 shares in the Makum Tea Company, made some 30 years ago, for some years past had returned dividends averaging 20 per cent., and for the season 1922 it was 30 per cent. That company was opening up new tea areas from revenue; its prospects were good, and the market value of the shares was some three and a-half times the book value. The Namdang Tea Company, in which they were also interested, had over 1,000 acres under tea, which would be a full 1,250 acres when the garden was completed. For 1922 a first profit of between £8,000 and £9,000 was made, and it was hoped nearly to double that amount in the current season. They could expect a satisfactory return on this investment from now onwards. On their new garden, Bogapani, they had well over 500 acres under tea, and this season were manufacturing tea for the first time. The soil was first class and had the makings of a splendid garden. Considering the present prosperity of tea, the proprietors would be pleased that the Assam Railways and Trading Company had been in a position so largely to interest itself in the industry. The board were not satisfied with the 3 per cent. dividend on the "B" stock, which was all that they could recommend on the present accounts, and he fully hoped that for the future their profits would be such that they would be able to make a better return to the "B" stockholders who had waited so patiently.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97 9/16
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	285-290
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	360-375
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.23-25.26
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅝-1.4 11/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	90.80-90.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	940-950
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-90,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4⅝-1.4 11/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	765-785
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.49⅜-4.49⅝
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	77.80-77.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	151¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101-101¼
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	450-490
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	318-323,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	5,200,000*

* Nominal.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 651—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Insurrection.

The joint political-military rising in Greece against the Revolutionary Government now in power has passed quickly into the limbo of fiascos. For some time past the possibility of a counter-revolution has been familiar to a number of people in the country, but only those who are blindly devoted to General Metaxas will be inclined to forgive him for allowing his hand to be forced by, apparently, a few military malcontents. General Metaxas's position was, to all seeming, so strong that he had only to wait in order to have the ripe fruit fall at his feet; the Revolutionary Committee had few friends, and would probably have welcomed any opportunity for abandoning office which guaranteed them at the same time personal security. The last thing the country wanted, it must be inferred, was a spell of civil war. When the opponents of the Committee decided to exchange constitutional opposition for an appeal to arms, they obtained comparatively little support; they were indifferently organised, and it was obvious that they had struck prematurely. A week saw the whole movement begin and fizzle out.

The Government's Success.

The attempt is made in our leading article to show why the Revolutionary Committee should accept its undoubted success in a chastened frame of mind. It is entitled to the fullest praise for the exemplary way in which it has handled the outbreak so far. Fighting has been almost entirely avoided, and the rank and file of the unsuccessful movement have been encouraged to return in peace to their normal routine of life. If the Committee will also "avert its eyes" while the leaders make their way out of the country, it will save itself from an embarrassing position and from the possibility of repeating the undoubted mistake that it made when it ordered the execution of M. Gounaris and his fellow-Ministers. No friend of Greece is worthy of the name if he minces words at this stage. We have no sympathy with the resort to violence, and recognise that the penalty for unsuccessful rebellion is usually death. The Revolutionary Committee, however, has enough blood on its hands and conscience to make it advisable on its part to avoid the risk of further executions, however great the justification that can be adduced. By showing the fullest leniency now it has the very best opportunity that is ever likely to be given it of escaping from the sword of Damocles that has hitherto been hanging over its own head.

France and the Little Entente.

As head of "one of the Smaller States" of Europe, it was natural that President Masaryk should appreciate the advantages of a "reconstruction" of the Entente, and it may have seemed a sufficiently bold act on his part thus to proclaim his conviction that for all practical purposes the Entente is at an end, and to plead in one of the two capitals for its revival. We could have wished, however, that he had taken his courage in both hands, and, after the example of the head of another "small State," had analysed from his point of view the causes that had brought the Entente to an end. While the Czecho-Slovakian President was speaking, General Smuts, at no great distance from him, uttered the following warning:—

> The international chaos is growing. The economic and industrial structure of Europe is cracking in all directions. Weariness and despair are sapping the *moral* of the peoples. Military hysteria is sapping their depleted resources. Everywhere you see armed men, everywhere gigantic armies, even among the small new States which cannot possibly afford them. In spite of the disappearance of the German Army there are now almost a million and a-half more men under arms than in August, 1914.

Two days later a French official returns from an official tour of Central Europe to commend the extension by France of credits "in aid of national defence" to the Central European States. It may well be asked how the Entente can be reconstructed when such divergent opinions are held by France and Great Britain on the duties of a Great Power in Europe at this time. Military expenditure is both indirectly and directly one of the chief hindrances to reconstruction in some of the smaller States; but any country that wishes to maintain or increase its military budget is invited to look to France for the means to do so. President Masaryk is understood to have refused a military alliance with France. He would have immeasurably enhanced even his great reputation, if on behalf of

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the smaller States he had denounced the policy that is largely responsible for perpetuating unrest and sowing the seeds of further trouble in Central and South-Eastern Europe.

Politics in Turkey.

The resignation of the Turkish Government ten weeks after taking office with an overwhelming majority in the Grand National Assembly showed that the politics of new Turkey were not running very smoothly. There have been reports of difficulties in regard to the position of Mustapha Kemal Pasha, who is credited with a desire to combine in his person the presidency of the republic as well as that of the Council of Ministers. Fethi Bey, the Prime Minister, is understood to have favoured a more constitutional rôle for the Nationalist leader; he has now gone, and a republic under the dictatorship of Kemal Pasha follows. A change of Government at this stage will entail the appointment of a Cabinet of less independent views, more ready to conform to the wishes of Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his Popular Party, which dominates the Assembly. In these matters Turkey must buy her own experience. The more Angora tries to force the pace the stronger the position of the Committee of Union and Progress, which is in the meantime consolidating its hold on Constantinople. In this respect Mustapha Kemal Pasha would seem to be doing a disservice to his country. Turkey is in need of a strong Administration, able to carry through certain much-needed reforms; it is not concerned with forms of government, and still less with the personal ambitions of one or two men. The position of the Ghazi as head of a constitutional State could hardly be challenged; but if he should arrogate to himself an unconstitutional position and not be taken to task over it, the exhibition of national supineness would suggest that there was little real vitality behind the forces that are alleged to be moving in the new Turkey.

Education in Cyprus.

The publication by the Greek Press Bureau in Limassol of the correspondence that passed between M. Araouso, the Greek delegate from Cyprus, and the Colonial Office clears up one or two points which had been left vague by telegraphic summaries. For the moment we propose to refer only to the subject of the new Education Bill, which has been made the occasion for some agitation in the island, and for the dispatch of several telegrams to The Near East. The grievance of the Greeks resolves itself into a complaint that this solution of the educational problem is necessarily a hurried one, because, owing to their deliberate abstention from the Legislative Council, the Greek members have no opportunity of studying the Bill. There is also the specific objection against the giving to the High Commissioner of the right of veto on the appointment and dismissal of schoolmasters. Education is such a vexed subject in Near Eastern countries, where it is usually made the strongest weapon in national propaganda, that we should be prepared to consider patiently and sympathetically any objections to a particular measure. In this instance, however, it is difficult to discover—as was, indeed, to be expected in a British colony—the least ground for the wholly artificial agitation against the Cyprus Education Bill. As the reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies points out, none of the complaints lodged against the measure by the Greek "Unionists" holds water. The Bill, or a similar measure, has been under consideration for three years; it is not true that the measure withdraws all privileges of the ecclesiastical authorities. On the other hand, it does aim at releasing schoolmasters from local political influences and at giving them better pay and, where they are worthy of it, security of tenure. It requires some boldness or profound indifference to sound education to challenge a Bill on this latter point.

Troubled Persia.

Riza Khan, the strong man of Persia, who has hitherto preferred to be Minister of War in five successive Cabinets of varying complexion, has at last accepted the responsibility of forming a Ministry of his own. As he has recently had an ex-Prime Minister arrested and was credited with the intention of meting out the same fate to the colleague who until last week was at the head of the Government, it may make for greater stability in Persia if he becomes Prime Minister himself. Among his services to his country may be reckoned the reorganisation of the military force and the establishment of some measure of internal security. His statesmanship, however, is not of a high order: and as Persia stands mostly in need of a reformer who will stamp out corruption in the public services and prepare the ground for the financial reforms that the American advisers have been engaged to introduce, she is not necessarily on the threshold of a new and happier era because the Sardar Sepah has become Prime Minister. If he were to set himself to administer the country for a period by means of foreign experts, his name might yet go down to posterity as the saviour of Persia.

The Commission Season in India.

By a tradition which might profitably be reconsidered, November in India marks the opening of the season for peripatetic Commissions or Committees of Inquiry into a selection of the numerous defects from which the country still suffers. This year three important inquiries are on foot. The most spectacular Commission, which has to deal with Service questions, was appointed so long ago that changes in its *personnel* have already begun, and regarding it there is now nothing to be said except that 'twere well if it were done quickly. Less conspicuous, but scarcely less important to the country, is the work of the Committee which has undertaken the task of cleaning up the Bombay Stock Exchange. The problems presented to it can best be explained in the words of the President of the local Chamber of Commerce, who not long ago described the existing institution as the greatest possible handicap to the progress of the presidency, and declared that the genuine investor has been made the plaything of the speculator, until he has practically disappeared from the industrial market. The task of reform will not be easy, for Bombay has speculation in its blood, but, for the sake of the rest of the country, we hope that, under Mr. Atlay's expert guidance, the Committee will be able to grapple with it successfully.

An Indian Bar.

The third inquiry, which has to deal with the proposal to establish an Indian Bar, also presents some very intricate problems. The legal profession in India is a foreign growth, and we believe the first Indian lawyers in the modern sense were a few Tamil clerks who were taken into partnership by Portuguese legal firms in Goa and Cochin. In British India the profession grew up as an adjunct to the Inns of Court, and the special privileges accorded to barristers were at first natural and reasonable. Now, however, Indian lawyers claim to be able to hold their own, and so far as knowledge and ability go their claim is absolutely justified. Unfortunately, the Indian universities

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do not yet offer a training in life and character comparable to what is given in this country, and the standard of professional conduct set by English barristers is still a valuable asset. The main problem now is to recognise the claims of ability and knowledge in such a way as to ensure that these professional standards are maintained. It ought not to be insoluble, and the selection of Sir Edward Chamier as President is, at any rate, a guarantee that the inquiry will be at once sympathetic and thorough.

The Sukkur Barrage.

The inauguration of the gigantic irrigation works which have been designed to reclaim the deserts of Sind is an event which appeals strongly to the imagination, and no one will grudge Sir George Lloyd the feeling of satisfaction, so obvious in his speech, that his term of office has seen the end of preliminary discussions, which have lasted for more than half a century. Sticklers for the old classical tradition might perhaps question the wisdom of employing such words as "triumph" or "success" in connection with the inception of an undertaking which is still regarded with grave suspicion by an important body of expert opinion: surely it will be time enough to talk of triumph when the Indus, whose views are not yet officially on record, has submitted to the new discipline now to be imposed. The time for controversy has, however, passed, the millions are about to be spent, and, whatever views may be held on technical questions, everyone must now hope that the judgment of the official advisers will be vindicated by results, and that no hostile critic will ever be given an opportunity of saying, "I told you so!"

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Monday Evening.

Solvitur Conferendo.

Among the minor benefits which we thought we had derived from the fall of Mr. Lloyd George was the cessation of his eternal conferences—for the historian, indeed, it will be hard to decide whether more difficulties were solved or created by these conferences. But we were wrong. Mr. Lloyd George has gone, but General Smuts remains. And just as the ex-Premier was able to impress his colleagues with the omniscience of his peculiar plans, so it is with the South African representative at the Imperial Conference.

Mr. Baldwin has appealed to France to think three times, and then to enter into a conference with Great Britain, America, and other countries—a sort of cabalistic appeal which assumed that France had forgotten the story of Naaman washing himself seven times in the Jordan. M. Poincaré might indeed have answered: is not the occupation of the Ruhr better security than all the conferences in the world? But he did not. For the sake, presumably, of his pipe-smoking friend, Elisha, he has accepted the proposal, but on conditions which everyone knew he would make. The French Premier is too acute a man to be deceived by talk of "impartial" conferences; he realises well that "impartiality" now equals, as it equalled with us during the War, pacifism, which in its turn equals pro-Germanism. Those, therefore, who hope for a solution from this conference, are to be envied their inexhaustible powers of optimism.

The Imperial Conference.

In regard to this terrific question of reparations, there are two things to be said: (1) Whether it is actually possible for the Imperial Conference to speak with absolutely united voice on the matter—and to suppose, for example, that Australians look upon payment by Germany in the same light as do the supporters of General Smuts is to dub oneself a fool; and (2) Whether, supposing that the British Empire could speak with united voice, how that is going, short of the impossible adoption by the Empire of a policy of isolation, to affect the problem. There are two other observations which ought to be remembered when discussions of this matter arise—and they arise every day, almost at every meal—first, that it is a very great mistake to assume that M. Poincaré is sitting in obstinate loneliness in a hostile world, and, secondly, that the British Empire cannot possibly take to itself the powers of a world tribunal.

General Smuts.

The storm of praise, predicted here some weeks ago, has broken heavily round General Smuts, so heavily, in fact, that the petty Rothermere Press has been constrained almost to ignore his existence! Without doubt his personality is suffusing the Conference, and there is very serious danger when our post-War politicians, with flexible principles, come under the influence of personality. One has only to remember the disastrous effect which Mr. Lloyd George had on people hitherto regarded as straight.

Last week General Smuts made a speech on Reparations, which was broadcasted, they say, to a million people. It was a most impressive, able, and quite masterly speech; on the wireless one could hear, what one did not read in the newspaper reports, applause at almost every sentence. Everyone is discussing its frankness: in its criticism of France it caused a sensation. On the whole—for many people, and some, even, of English mentality, think and whisper as General Smuts openly talks—it is better that it should have been uttered.

But it will not do. It is ludicrous of the South African representative to appeal to a mythical "Liberal" France when our own Premier a few hours later can tell him that the French nation is solid behind M. Poincaré; it is a descent to the fashion of English journalism to talk of "sympathy" with France—the "no one is more convinced than we of the utter desirability and, indeed, necessity, of preserving the Entente" attitude has become the most hypocritical of *clichés;* and it is something very much worse than *naïveté* which can make him suppose that the Germans after the Great War should be treated as the Boers were treated after the South African War. Even

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the third-class carriage readers of the *Daily News* and of the *Westminster Gazette* could tell him of the fundamental difference between the two wars —how in one case the defeated obeyed the peace terms, how in the other it was a national war, and so on. Light has not shone round the world after this speech, though many busybodies have invested the General with a halo: we are still in the year of disgrace and darkness, 1923.

Fiscal Policy.

The Protectionists and Free Traders are marching to a fight, and at the moment no one can tell who will be victors. Those who thought Mr. Baldwin's Government were bound hand and foot by the Bonar Law pledge that no fundamental change should be effected in the fiscal policy of this country without a General Election made a mistake: the Premier has come out boldly with his assertion that home markets must be protected. It is nice to assume, but it is really impossible to state, that the country is with him, for one meets on all sides disinterested people who will have none of the policy of Protection.

Of course, the interests which represent Free Trade are enormous, both within and without this country, and the fight in the end may be one purely between materialists. But as far as principle and inexpert opinion go, it would seem that the Premier is absolutely right. And one must admit to being attracted by the argument that, just as England was made into a State by Protection (a solid position having been attained, Free Trade was then, of course, the best policy), so she must be remade by the same policy.

Anti-Prohibition.

Of course it was bound to come. I mean the reaction against the wild Wahahis of the West. What happens in America is nothing to do with us: if they like Prohibition let them have it. They seem to like Mr. Lloyd George; let them have him too. And should they be whimsical enough to be willing to take Lord Birkenhead instead of General Oglethorpe, not even a rabid Ulsterman would object! But we will not, at any price, have their Prohibition.

The Prohibitionists know, of course, nothing of the past; that is why their greatest successes have occurred in the lands remote from culture and civilisation—in American cities and Scottish towns, for example. The place of wine and good liquor in the history of civilisation is a great one, but in order to prevent its being fatally assailed, the forces against the iconoclastic teetotalers must be serried. Such was the burden of a very beautiful speech made by Mr. Ernest Oldmeadow last week at the Anti-Prohibition League Conference. He suggests that the wine and spirit trade should be the backbone of the army to defeat Prohibition; that the time has come for counter-propaganda; and that in this effort the services of artists and thinkers should be secured—artists who might proceed to issue a "Book of Wine," or "Book of Good Liquor." This is an excellent prospect, for, however estimable you may think the Prohibitionists may be, there is one thing you cannot do, and that is to read them.

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Railway Travel.

You can always get people to argue on which is the best and most comfortable railway line to travel in this country, but there is not much doubt now that so far as third-class passengers are concerned the London, Midland, and Scottish Railway must take first place. This company has recognised, among others things, the great problem of the traveller's luggage. As often as not you try to stow your suit-case under the seat, and are met by hostile water-pipes. You glance up at the rack, and put it there at your peril, or, if you are very lucky, at the peril of somebody else. But in the new carriages there are no pipes under the seat and there are provided large vestibules for the heavier luggage. The corridor is in the centre, but it is now really a corridor, and not the course of an obstacle race, in which luggage of all heights and breadths made passage to all but the most athletic extremely difficult.

This is a bright idea, and will probably be copied by the other companies. It is good in the sense that it does recognise modern needs. Very few people nowadays, if they undertake long journeys for but a short sojourn, carry trunks, whereas the old carriages were built for people who did carry trunks and employed porters.

Evening Newspapers.

To-night was the first night that I can remember when we had only three newspapers to pick from—the *Evening Standard*, the *Evening News*, and the *Star*. For on Saturday night the *Pall Mall Gazette* went down without a sigh, and is henceforth merged in the *Standard*. It is all very pitiable. For there is now nothing in the evening that you can read and believe. If in the morning you have seen the *Express*, the *Standard* in the evening becomes superfluous; similarly with the *Mail* and the *Evening News*, and, though more creditably, with the *Daily News* and the *Star*.

But this comment may be supercilious. It may be, indeed, that we are no longer politically-minded, that we are getting the newspapers we deserve.

The Unionist Conference.

It was a reproach against the Trade Union Conference this year that it discussed matters which it did not understand, which were, in fact, outside its province; but an equal reproach can be levelled against the Unionist Conference at Plymouth that it did not discuss matters which were very decidedly within its province. Of any social policy on the part of Unionism it was difficult to get any idea; that there are fine men within the Unionist party who really do comprehend what is meant by "Tory democracy," is not to be denied, but it seems that they are sadly in the minority. Unless the Unionists get together—and they are perhaps as divided now as is any party—and form a common domestic policy, the success of Labour at the next election is assured.

Alter Ego.

Shaukat Ali, the Khalifate leader, has been released after serving two years' imprisonment for incitement to violence and for attempting to create disaffection among the troops.

According to the Teheran correspondent of the *Pioneer*, the Persian newspapers announce that the Shah will depart for Europe as soon as the new Prime Minister, Riza Khan, the Sardar Sepah, is ready with his new Cabinet.

The ashes of the late Mr. Oscar Browning, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, who died in Rome three weeks ago, were placed in the vault near the west entrance to the college chapel last Saturday morning, after a choral service in the chapel, which was attended by the Vice-Provost and Fellows of the college.

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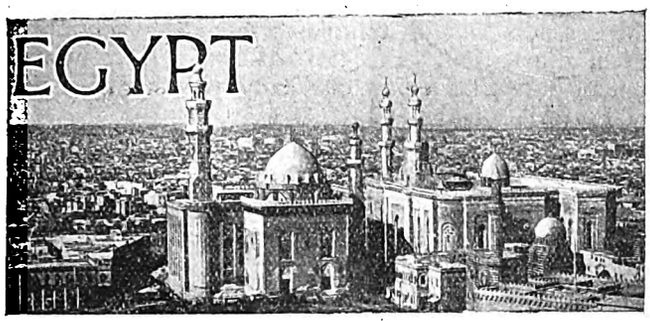
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 21.

Elections Date.

The date of the elections proper has not yet been fixed, and as the minimum period which must elapse between the appearance of the royal decree fixing the date, and the date itself, is forty days, and as there is, as yet, no talk of the decree's being issued in the near future, it is clear that the polling for deputies cannot take place before the first week in December. As the Prime Minister, in an interview given some six weeks ago, promised that the elections, at the latest, should be over and done with before the end of November, this new delay is arousing much comment in the local Press, and there is the usual talk about the hidden reactionary hand which is determined to relegate the elections, the Constitution, Parliament, and all the rest of it, to an indefinite future. But if one leaves aside for the moment talk of this kind, there is yet some cause for anxiety at these constant failures to keep to the electoral time-table. At the earliest, Parliament cannot now assemble before the first week in February, and, in order to comply with the Constitution, the Budget must have been passed by April 1. If, from now on, everything goes with perfect smoothness, Parliament will still have all its work cut out to get through with the necessary preliminaries, which will take up a considerable time at the first assembling, and to finish the Budget before the prescribed date.

The Political Lull.

The extraordinary lack of momentum in any sort of enterprise in this country has never been better exemplified than during the past ten days, while Saad Pasha Zaghloul has been confined to his bed and unable to talk. In countries where the climate is an incentive to effort, it is usually sufficient for some one of vision and vigour to start a movement; willing helpers join in and momentum is gathered as the activities, whatever they may be, develop. In Egypt everything is reversed. Here, something new is started, no matter what it may be, a new club, a society for the promotion of Arabic, a new political party, and there is a terrific flourish of trumpets—and that is all. The moment the enthusiastic pioneer turns his back the whole thing stops. As soon as the energetic spirit stops pushing the ball ceases to roll, and, as a rule, nothing more is ever heard of that club, scheme, project, or whatever it may have been. An official of the Ministry of Education remarked to me the other day that the ambition of his career had been, and remained, to see some purely Egyptian institution of any kind continue its existence and develop of its own accord, without outside assistance. He was still hopeful, though he had done over twenty years in the service and his time would soon be up, and he was beginning to fear that his dream would never be realised.

Even in politics there is this same dreadful inertia to be overcome. Since Saad Pasha has been ill the bottom has fallen right out of the local political world. The newspapers have been compelled to discuss education, army organisation and other dull subjects of the kind for which but little space is available when politics are piping hot. Half the hopelessness of the present situation, from the point of view of a large number of Egyptian politicians, is that the abolition of Martial Law and the removal of British control have done away with all the grievances. And, in Oriental politics, what can you do without plenty of good, hearty wrongs, that cry to Heaven for redress? Obviously nothing, as is now being proved in Egypt.

Mischievous Activities.

One little group, however, is not letting the grass grow under its feet. This band, very active at present, consists in the fishers in troubled waters to whom the return of the Khedive Mother, the impending funeral of Prince Abdel Kader, son of the ex-Khedive, and the unfortunate mistakes of the Government in giving to these events, by prohibiting public receptions, a political flavour, constitute splendid opportunities for activities of a subterranean but, none the less, easily recognisable kind. The parasites who hang around highly-placed personages and utilise the latter's names and prestige for private and often discreditable ends have nothing to do with any genuine Egyptian political party. Even the Nationalist Party, or, at least, its more responsible members, realise that there is nothing to be gained by intrigues of a very dubious character. But, at the moment, there is a great deal of such mischievous work going on under the surface. It is a very unhealthy phase of Egyptian political life, and it is to be hoped that in the more wholesome atmosphere of a parlitmentary régime the activities of these intriguers will be circumscribed. Certainly, Egypt

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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stands to gain nothing by schemes intended to revive in this country sympathy for Abbas Hilmy.

The Return to Cairo.

The Court returns to Cairo next week; the funeral of the late Prince Abdel Kader is fixed for Monday next; the Sirdar will be back in Egypt in a few days; the Residency will move to Kasr el Doubara just before the end of the month, and the Government offices will return to Cairo shortly afterwards. All these moves, in conjunction with the nearness of the elections, will mean very great activity in the capital. The return of the Sirdar is of especial interest, for during his absence there have been many developments in the Ministry of War which, it is felt, must require the Sirdar's attention before he goes up to Khartoum. Intentionally, or otherwise, the present Minister of War, Mahmud Pasha Azmy, has given the impression that he is determined to undermine the position of British officers serving with the Egyptian Army in Egypt. Various decisions by his Ministry during the last three months have left room for no other opinion. At the same time, he has contrived to cause much discontent in Egyptian as well as British circles. A particular instance has been the Military School, the students of which are very agitated about the new system of examinations which has been instituted. A deputation of the disgruntled cadets has gone down to Alexandria to meet the Sirdar on his arrival, and to lay their grievances before him at the earliest possible moment after his arrival. It looks as though there will have to be a thorough clearing up of outstanding questions affecting the War Ministry.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, October 25.

The Parliamentary Situation.

The first ordinary session of the Skupshtina came to an end on October 15, and the Minister of Finance has every reason to be satisfied with his work. The land tax has been raised by 500 per cent., the income-tax—which was not small before—by 30 per cent., and, in addition to these, all rates and dues have been raised, so that the protests of the taxpayer are loud in the land today, and many prophesied the resignation of the Minister of Finance. But M. Stoyadinovitch stuck to his guns, and in view of the greatly increased demands upon the State Budget he could afford to remain firm and so carry his point.

The Minister of War is likewise satisfied with the work of the Skupshtina. The new Army Law is passed, although it imposes fresh heavy burdens upon the nation. But the old Army Law was so out of date that a new one had become a necessity of State.

But outside the Skupshtina the lawyer and the practical worker are both dissatisfied with the achievements of Parliament. Owing to the extremely narrow Government majority—if, indeed, we may call it so, seeing that it exists solely owing to the absence of M. Raditch and his deputies—the struggle between Government and Opposition has been very acute; and as the Opposition made every Bill an occasion for attacking the Government, the new laws were voted for not on their merits, but according to party political standpoint, in which mere defiance often decided the issue. And so on several occasions even the most judicious amendments brought in by Opposition members were thrown out, and the laws *de facto* decided upon in the Radical Members' Club.

The shortcomings of legislation under these conditions are specially obvious in the Farmers' Insurance Law against hail and other accidents of the weather. The wording of the law is so far from clear that it is not even certain whether insurance is compulsory for the farmers—and only thus would it fulfil its object—or optional.

The Opposition certainly did its best to subject the Government to a most searching criticism, and incidentally to shake the alliance between the Radicals, Turks, and Germans, and so to provoke a crisis. But all attempts of the kind were unsuccessful, because, on the one hand, M. Pashitch's authority with his party is so strong that it successfully prevents internal dissensions, and, on the other hand, the position of the Turks and Germans is too weak for them to venture upon, or even to desire, a break with the Radicals, as it is solely due to the present Parliamentary position that their small numbers can be used with full effect.

What the Opposition failed to achieve in the session that has just come to an end it tried to accomplish on October 19 at the opening of the new session.

The Opposition Bloc.

Under the leadership of M. Davidovitch, the Democrats made an effort to overturn the all-Radical Government by means of a *bloc* of all the Opposition parties.

The first whom they sought to gain for this plan of an Opposition *bloc* were M. Raditch's old allies, Drs. Koroshets and Spaho, and in this they had a measure of success. As a next step, Drs. Koroshets and Spaho were to persuade the Raditch Party to send some thirty or forty deputies to Belgrade. Theoretically this was quite practicable, in practice the scheme failed—as so many similar schemes have failed before—owing to the extremely delicate position of the party. It comes back to the old *impasse* that the Raditch deputies are afraid of going to Belgrade for fear of losing their popularity with the Croats, in which case the Frank Party and the Clericals, whose influence over the Croatian peasant is considerable in many parts of the country, would be only too pleased to step into their shoes. Moreover, the Raditch Party is at present handicapped by the absence of its leader. M. Raditch supplies his Press regularly with long letters advertising the successes he is bound to

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score in the future, but that is not the same thing as his masterful presence among his followers.

But even if M. Davidovitch had succeeded in creating his Opposition *bloc*, he would still have had to reckon with the Pribitchevitch following among the Democrats, and the standing danger that, under Pribitchevitch's influence, the old Radical-Democrat Coalition might yet be revived with the party cry of "For the Constitution." In that case it is more than probable that the majority of the Democrats would follow M. Pribitchevitch—who is by no means averse from such a solution—and M. Davidovitch would find himself left in the lurch, as he did before the last General Election, when the Radicals ousted the Democrats from the Government.

M. Davidovitch has been very unfortunate in his Parliamentary tactics. He missed his great chance after the Zagreb Congress fifteen months ago, when M. Raditch offered him the leadership of the Revisionist *bloc*. M. Davidovitch hesitated, and M. Pashitch, with his customary astuteness, used the moment to turn the Democrats out of the Government on the ground of their vacillating attitude in regard to the Constitution. M. Davidovitch's present manœuvre was an attempt to repair the omission of that time. He has failed again, and M. Pashitch is stronger than ever. He can afford to govern with his own well-disciplined party, supported by the Turkish and German members. The one hope left to the Opposition parties is that the Radical Party will split up from within, but even that is less probable than before, as M. Stoyan Protitch, an able leader, the one serious rival to, and only possible successor of, M. Pashitch, is dangerously ill.

Italy and Yugoslavia.

In the interests of the peace of the world, of human progress, and in the name of culture and humanity, yet a few words about the relations between Italy and Yugoslavia!

The Fiume question is likely to be solved in the near future. Even the most convinced opponent of Yugoslavia must admit that she conducted her share of the negotiations in the most conciliatory spirit, and has scrupulously carried out all obligations undertaken by her under the Treaty of Rapallo. Although the Italian minority in Yugoslavia numbers only 23,000, or 0.17 per cent. of the entire population, Yugoslavia has established Italian schools in Sibenik and Split, and permits the free growth and development of Italian sentiment and culture at these schools. All political and economic stipulations of the Treaty were fulfilled with equal conscientiousness. Now the Fiume question is part and parcel of the Treaty of Rapallo.

Italy's behaviour has been in great contrast to this. By the Italian census, there are 430,000 Yugoslavs in the Littoral. They form a compact population, and the great majority does not even understand Italian. Under Austria these Yugoslavs (mainly Slovenes) had elementary and also secondary schools in Gorizia, Idria, Trieste, Pasino, Volosca, and Capo d'Istria. All these schools either have been closed down or are going to be so in the near future. For all the Yugoslavs in Italy there is to be only one secondary school at Udine, where there are no Yugoslav residents at all, and where no one of the four classes allowed may contain more than thirty-five pupils. When we realise that the Gymnasium (secondary school) in Gorizia used to contain three parallel classes for each standard, and that each of the twenty-four was attended by fifty scholars, we begin to understand what this reduction of school facilities means to the Slovene population of Venezia Giulia.

But this would not suffice. As from October 1, Slovene has been abolished as the language of instruction in the first elementary schools, and children of six, who cannot understand a word of Italian, are being taught by Italian teachers who do not know a word of Slovene.

On October 24 all Yugoslav Press publications in the Littoral were ordered to publish all copy, advertisements, and telegrams in Italian translation as well as in the Slovene original text. It may be pointed out that the Slovene paper *Edinost* is the oldest newspaper in Trieste, and that even under Absolutist Austria-Hungary it was not subjected to the treatment it is now experiencing. On October 15 the reading and circulation of all papers published in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes was forbidden in Istria.

It is quite clear that these ordinances of the Fascist Government have evoked bitter resentment throughout Yugoslavia.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 20.

Parliamentary Affairs.

Parliament opened on the 15th instant with the usual pomp at the opening of this session. A number of important measures are expected to come before the House shortly. The air is full of rumours of an imminent change of Government, and two of the present Ministers, including M. Al. Constantinescu, are said to have resigned, but it is not expected that his resignation will be accepted unless the Liberal Government goes out.

The King's Speech.

The following is a summary of the King's Speech:—

"Senators and Deputies, Gentlemen,—During this new session you will have to continue the work undertaken by this Legislature. The Constitution having been voted, your task will be the easier, inasmuch as the fundamental principles have been established upon which the laws of our now larger country shall be based.

"You will have to consider and vote the law for the unification of our administrative régime, which must be brought into harmony with the needs of our State.

"You will study and vote the educational reforms, the law for the unification of the Orthodox Church, the law on communications, water power, and mines, bringing them into accord with the provisions of the new Constitution, and also the reforms of indirect taxation, the revision and unifi-

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cation of the law on the consumption of alcohol and the law on pensions.

"You will further have to vote on the Labour and Social Welfare Code, which establishes the measures to be taken for the protection of labour and in regard to agreements between the factors of production, on the basis of the principle of equality laid down in the new Constitution.

"The unification of the various codes is being worked out persistently, it will probably be possible for the Government to lay before you the new Penal Code; moreover, in the interests of public health, you will be required to consider the new sanitary and social laws. The expropriation (of rural land) is almost finished in the whole country, and the peasants are duly receiving their portions of land. In Bessarabia the Agrarian reform is completed, and the peasants have come into possession of the land apportioned to them under the Agrarian laws.

"The Constitution having provided for the expropriation of forests in order to ensure firewood and building wood to the rural population, my Government will submit to you a special law embodying this constitutional principle. . . ."

The Speech further comments upon the improved relations existing between Roumania and her great Allies, as well as her immediate neighbours, as, for instance, Poland, and expresses satisfaction at the settlement of the Turkish question and that of the Dardanelles.

The hope is expressed that in the matter of Reparations a speedy agreement will be reached, and the assurance is given that Roumania will always exercise all her influence in the interests of general peace.

[Those passages of the speech dealing with financial questions will be found elsewhere in this issue.—Ed.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE BULGARIAN ARMY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The fortunate suppression of the Agrarian-Communist revolt in Bulgaria by M. Zankoff's Government, through the loyalty of the army and the mass of citizens, must make it clear to unprejudiced observers that the present voluntary army allowed to Bulgaria by the Treaty of Neuilly is wholly inadequate. It is highly probable that if the plans of the revolt had not fallen into official hands, a large part of the country might have been occupied by rebels armed from Moscow. With a reasonable conscript army of, say, 80,000, Bulgaria would be spared these constant alarms with the menace of foreign intervention; and even in this case each one of her neighbours would outnumber her by three to one, so that she could not be a threat to Balkan peace. Besides, the complaints of *komitaji* activity in Macedonia may be well founded now that the Bulgarian Army is too weak to keep them under control, and armed Macedonians might conceivably be able to seize Sofia by a *coup de main* and turn an imaginary peril into a real one. The smallness of the Bulgarian Army is far more a danger to her neighbours than an army drawn by lot in conscription could be, and by securing a stable Government in Bulgaria would react favourably on the whole Peninsula. Two or three policemen per kilometre cannot enforce security of living or the inviolability of frontiers.—I am, etc.,

KENNETH LEDWARD, F.R.G.S.

London, October 12.

PALESTINE GOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—The mandate for Palestine is British, and without any Balfour Declaration the Jews could have come and settled therein as privileged people, considering their wealth and capacities. They are doing no more now, to the great benefit of the country, and our Administration has been so far an ideal one, and our High Commissioner truly high in every sense of the word, except that, as he is a Jew, his responsibility renders him timorous in the exercise of his rule in dealing with a rebellious section of the population led by disappointed office seekers, who are calling on the Arabs of the Hejaz to take up their cause. Obviously, we must either strengthen his hands or put the country under martial law. Conciliation is at an end.

The Hejaz and the promises made by Great Britain to the Sherif of Mecca, belong to the Arabian *Peninsula* only, and do not touch Syria Palestine, or Baghdad at all. Moreover, the Arabic-speaking population of Syria, of the Lebanon, and of Palestine, object most strongly to come under the rule of the Hejaz, and Baghdad and Transjordania are gnashing their teeth at being subjected to Hejazian chiefs. So the Hejaz had better stop its officious intervention in Palestine, and Palestinian Pashas be told to sell or return their decorations to the new Turkish Republic, which has cancelled all old orders!

There can be no going back on the policy of Great Britain and France in those regions, and no well-wisher for their poor people would wish it otherwise. The real chiefs of any people are those who can do them good economically, and give them security and justice as those great Powers are doing.—I am, etc.,

October 20, 1923. ARIF.

SUDAN HONOURS.

On the occasion of the Anniversary of his Accession, His Majesty the King of Egypt has been most graciously pleased to confer the following decorations and ranks upon the under-mentioned officers and officials:—

THE ORDER OF THE NILE.

Third Class.—El Miralai Mohammed Bey Fadel, El Miralai D. S. B. Thomson Bey, E. N. Corbyn, H. A. MacMichael, D.S.O., C. A. Willis, O.B.E., J. G. Matthew, O.B.E.

Fourth Class.—El Kaimakam B. A. Jarvis Bey, El Bimbashi Ahmed Eff. Anwar, A. G. Pawson, W. P. D. Clarke, A. D. Home, F. S. J. Oborne, S. M. Macdonald, G. J. Fleming, F. W. Beddison, M.B.E., J. W. Heyward, H. W. Stenning.

A Burmese theatre, in which performances will be given daily by Burmese actors and actresses, is to be one of the attractions in the Burmese Section of the British Empire Exhibition next year.

A public lecture on "The Buddhist Caves of Central India" will be given by Colonel C. E. Luard at the Victoria and Albert Museum next Tuesday (November 6), at 5 p.m., under the auspices of the India Society.

Ghavam es Sultaneh, Conservative Prime Minister of Persia in 1921-22, who was arrested by the Sardar Sepah, the Minister of War, for intriguing against him, has been released by the Shah, and is expected to leave for Europe.

EDUCATIONAL.

TO PARENTS requiring a Home Education for their children. Lady, who already has niece living with her, wishes other children to share lessons and games. P.N.E.U. system. Healthy village in good district. References required. For full particulars apply, MISS EARL Norton-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.

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THE BIRTH OF A TAX.

By COLES PASHA.

We learn from your Cairo Correspondent (under your issue of October 11) that the Italian Consul at Cairo has refused to allow his subjects to pay the Gaffir tax, or what we in England call the police rates. This news is of special interest to me, as this tax is one which I was the means of creating when I was the Commandant of Police in Cairo, now, alas! nearly thirty years ago. What is more, it was a tax imposed by me on the inhabitants without a murmur, notwithstanding that I had no authority from the Government to do so. This seems rather an extraordinary confession to make, but it is none the less true, and I will explain how the deed was accomplished, as it may serve as a useful precedent to other administrators in an Eastern country, although they may not be lucky enough to escape without even a reprimand, as I did!

In those early days the Gaffirs, or night-watch, of Cairo were a force entirely independent of the Police Administration, being appointed, paid, and dismissed by their own Sheik. When I took over the command of the police, I had the greatest difficulty in ascertaining either the number or pay of these watchmen; all I learned was that the householders contributed towards their upkeep, but the Sheik kept no account of the amounts collected or the sums disbursed. Moreover, I was warned that the custom dated from time immemorial, and I was strongly advised not to interfere in any way, as I was up against many vested interests quite capable of retaliating by organising robberies, and so on. This did not frighten me, however, and, having satisfied myself both as regards the number of watchmen required and their pay, which had to be found, I came to the conclusion that the Sheik's emoluments far exceeded my own; in fact, he was enjoying a nice profitable business. I accordingly sent for the Sheik and told him that I proposed to undertake his duties myself, and that his services were no longer required. I added that an inquiry into the financial side of the question might be to his detriment! I imagine that the Sheik's fortune, already made, encouraged him to accept the situation without much protest, fearing what might befall him. Commissioners were next appointed to assess the amount each householder was expected to contribute, and, as this was under what they were already paying, there was no protest on their part. Further, when the amount was collected, it was found ample to double the watchmen's pay and add other perquisites, such as great-coats and so forth, so they, too, were more than satisfied. Every item was accounted for, and the sums collected were paid into a fund administered by myself, and it was not till several years later that the Government added the Gaffir receipts to their revenue, and the pay was disbursed as shown on the Budget.

I may add that although, owing to the Capitulations, Europeans could not be forced to pay even when the tax was legalised, few demurred, as they recognised that they got good value for the money in the way of police protection. When, on the outbreak of the War, martial law was introduced, there was no distinction made between Europeans and Egyptians, and all were called on to contribute alike.

I was always very proud of this particular illegitimate child of mine (I had more than one!), and felt that sooner or later the Government would adopt my offspring, but I must admit that I never imagined that some years later it would be the bone of contention between the Government and the Capitulatory Powers which it has now apparently become. It seems also a doubtful policy on the part of Italy to select this particular one to fight over, seeing that they have so lately inflicted a heavy fine on Greece for neglecting to protect Italian subjects; but the action of the Consul is probably with the idea of raising the whole question of the Capitulations in Egypt now that martial law has come to an end.

In this connection it may be remembered that, prior to his deportation, Zaghloul Pasha vigorously repudiated our right to try to straighten out the question of Capitulations, maintaining that it was a matter which could and should be arranged by the Egyptians themselves, and it will be interesting now to watch the protracted delays which will follow and the hard bargains which will be made by several Powers in turn. For it is feared that the Egyptians cannot expect to make the same terms as the Turks at Lausanne, as there is no war weariness on the part of the Powers to assist them, and the full pound of flesh will be exacted.

Possibly the Egyptian extremists will regret that the British assistance was not accepted whilst the Powers were still confronted with martial law. Who knows, should any untoward incident arise, they may even be thankful to see the British Army still in possession; otherwise it might mean a foreign fleet at Alexandria and a heavy fine to pay? Is it too much to expect that Zaghloul Pasha and his shallow-headed supporters will take note of the object-lesson which the occupation of Corfu affords, and when they are in power, as there appears every chance of their being, learn to modify their demands? Advice even from an old sympathetic official is never acceptable to men of Zaghloul Pasha's characteristics, but I still have hopes that, like his prototype Riaz, he will become less unreasonable when once in office.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Shumiatsky, the Soviet Government's representative in Persia, has left Moscow to return to Teheran.

A renewal of the military convention concluded on January 23, 1922, between Roumania and Yugoslavia was signed in Belgrade on October 23.

Field-Marshal Lord Allenby was one of the speakers at the annual meeting of the Royal Society of St. George at the Mansion House last Thursday.

King Ferdinand of Roumania left Belgrade for Bucharest on October 24, via the Danube. He was seen off at the quay by King Alexander of Serbia, Queen Marie of Roumania, and Prince Nicholas of Greece and his daughters.

The body of Prince Abdul Kader, the younger son of the former Khedive Abbas Hilmy Pasha (who died some months ago), arrived in Cairo on October 23. The chief mourner was the Prime Minister, Yehia Pasha, who represented King Fuad.

In view of the financial burden which subscription to the League of Nations places on certain countries, its committee on distribution of expenses will take advantage of the increase of revenue due to increased membership to reduce the subscriptions, among other countries, of Roumania and Greece.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was present at the opening recently of a hostel at 112, Gower Street, W.C., which is to be used as a residence and institute by Indian students of all classes. The total cost of the purchase and reconstruction of the premises is £21,000, of which £5,000 was contributed by the American Young Men's Christian Association. The opening ceremony was presided over by Mr. Edwyn Bevan.

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Near East Bookshelf.

THE CZECH CAPITAL.

"FROM A TERRACE IN PRAGUE." By Lt.-Col. B. Granville Baker, D.S.O. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 16s.)

The author of "With Pen and Pencil on the Danube" here makes a further contribution to our imperfect knowledge of Central Europe by sketching for us historic Prague. Colonel Baker is a musical and pictorial soldier, or, perhaps more nicely, a military artist and musician; he has a keen ear for Dvorak, and supplies his own *vignettes* of the Czecho-Slovak metropolis, these latter being lovingly drawn, and showing, to use his own expression, that "the artist's hand withdrew reluctantly from the finishing touch." His book is not a history of Prague, but rather an historical medley; he disclaims any affection for the "Guide-Book," but we prefer to ignore that disclaimer; he has given us a very merry guide-book, and, if his publishers will give him a large map of the city for his second edition, we promise to re-read "From a Terrace in Prague" and to take it with us when we visit the city. Leonardo da Vinci was notorious for the number of masterpieces to which he failed to put "the finishing touch"; Col. Granville Baker has been so badly served in this matter of a map that we have had to procure one for ourselves.

The world at large knows little of Bohemia the real; it knew less before the Great War; it now extends an almost universal sympathy to the courageous Czech or Westernmost Slav. The world at large hopes that this at least of the new republics, carved out of Central Europe, will prove a permanent national entity. We inquire of our author. He shirks the answer. He points us to the history of Bohemia, of Prague. He shares one of our own pet forecasts—that a race which built the city of Berlin could never hope to conquer the race which built the city of London. He points to Prague, and finds some resemblance to Rome, more to Paris; he suggests that the peoples who built these cities are irrepressible. He hopes that President Masaryk and Dr. Benesh will build a solid State, but he seems to base his hopes more on the architectural than on the physiological and political qualities of the Praguers. Certainly he shows them to us as hearty fighters, robust and patriotic, and he describes the Sokol movement with its mixture of patriotism and gymnastics in mass formation (p. 214). On the other hand, he emphasises the heavy cult of clericalism, a plethora of saints' days and holidays, and the large Germanic invasion dating from the Middle Ages. But he goes no further, having apparently limited himself to the architectural and historical, and his history to the time of the Austrian subjugation of the Bohemian Kingdom in 1621. Also he does not set himself to be too serious, but indulges in what we may call a style of military whimsicality. One of Prague's railway stations—and that the finest—is named after "President Wilson of the Lost Points." Of King Stephen of Hungary Colonel Baker says: "He had only recently been converted from paganism, but he took part in this Polish dispute just as if he had been a ripe old Christian monarch of some standing." We become intimate through our author with the Przemysl royal house, and must particularly commend the verdict of one Ulrich, who was a bit of a polygamist:—

"Rather would I entrust myself to a Bohemian peasant girl than that I should take a German queen for my wife. Every heart clings to its own nation; therefore would a German woman favour my language. A German woman will have German servants; German will she teach my children." "From this remark," says Colonel Baker, "you will understand that the Bohemians thoroughly appreciated their neighbours." The neighbours of the owners of Prague are not at present in a very peaceful or prosperous condition of mind or body, and the Czecho-Slovakian Republic will need a keen sense of appreciation from now onwards. But this informative volume will help Englishmen to a sympathetic intimacy with one of the most famous cities in Europe, and we congratulate the author on the fine performance of a labour of love.

HUMAN EBB AND FLOW.

"THE ROMANCE OF EXCAVATION." By David Masters. (London: The Bodley Head, Ltd. 6s. 6d. net.)

It is difficult to overpraise this elegant little picture-story in the space at our disposal. The title, although accurate and excellent, might easily cause the schoolboy, the novel-glutton, and the Tutankhamen-weary to shy; whereas the little book is really a champagne to the most jaded mind. The story is so simply told; the author's gentle enthusiasm is irresistible; his shop-window is full of jewels: you should not pass it by. Here, above all, is a book to awaken in the hearts of the young an interest in the ground they tread; in the grounds they may never tread; in the strange world they live in; in that mystery that is Man; in the tenacity, the learning, the heroism of the—out with the word!—the born Archæologist. The following almost baby-like introduction opens to you the discovery of the Troy of Homer:—

When the pastor of the hamlet of Neu Buckow in Mecklenburg Schwerin gazed for the first time on his new-born son in 1822, he little knew what strange experiences confronted the boy.

But there follows the amazing story of Heinrich Schliemann's unveiling of pre-Homeric times in Asia and in Crete. Here also we have, in pillule form, the conquests of Young, Champollion, Mariette, Maspero, Flinders Petrie, Sayce, Carnarvon, Carter, in Egypt, and of Rawlinson and Layard in Mesopotamia and Persia. "Let us now," Mr. David Masters appears to have said to himself, "praise famous men." And excellently has he done it. Nor will he omit from his story other men like Napoleon, Nelson, and Stratford de Redcliffe, for he is out to prove in the prettiest language that the scientific historian looks back in order to look forward. "Back to Methusaleh," and yet further back, if you will—and how difficult it is to define the three common words—genius, chance, and fate. Twenty-six admirable photographs illuminate this little up-to-date essay.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Awakening Palestine." By Various Authors. Edited by Leon Simon and Leonard Stein. (London: John Murray. 7s. 6d.)

"Vaishnava Lyrics." Done into English Verse. By Surendranath Kumar, Pandalal Datta, and John Alexander Chapman. (London: Humphrey Milford. 5s. 6d. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 1 (New Style).
October 19 (Old Style).
Rabia 21, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Cheshvan 22, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Madame Titulesco, wife of the Roumanian Minister, has returned to London from Paris.

The Aga Khan arrived in London on October 28 from Paris, and is staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Hon. Richard Bethell left London last Friday by the P. and O. s. Narkunda for Port Said.

Sir Logie P. Watson has booked his passage on the P. and O. s. Macedonia and will embark at Marseilles on November 16, for Bombay.

Mme. Yovanovitch, wife of the Consul-General of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London last Friday for Henley-on-Thames.

Mr. Winfield Scott, Vice-Consul of the United States in Alexandria, has been appointed Acting Consul at Colombo, Ceylon, and will shortly leave Egypt to take up his new post.

Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché to the Roumanian Legation, last Friday presented a Roumanian infantry sword to complete the collection of swords of the Allies in the Armouries of the Tower.

Brigadier-General Sir Percy Sykes left London last week for the United States, where he is to deliver the Lowell Lectures at Washington. He has also been invited to lecture on Persia in various other centres.

General Prince Amanullah, Chief of the Persian General Staff, who has been in England studying military organisation, left on October 26 for Paris. During his visit Prince Amanullah placed orders for several armoured cars.

The Rt. Hon. Lieut.-Colonel Leslie Wilson, C.M.G., D.S.O., Governor-Designate of Bombay, accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and their daughter, is joining the P. and O. s. Dongola at Marseilles on November 23 en route for Bombay.

Prince Christopher of Greece, and Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Leeds, Prince Antoine Bibesco, and Mr. Henry Morgenthau, United States Ambassador to Greece, were among the passengers in the Aquitania, which arrived at Southampton from New York this week.

Among the passengers joining the P. and O. s. Maloja at Marseilles to-morrow, for Bombay, will be Sir Thomas Catto, the Rt. Hon. Sir J. Herbert Lewis, the Dewan-Sahib Raj Rana Shri Mansinghji and his son, Sir Dinshaw and Lady Petit and their three sons.

Mr. E. S. Montagu, late Secretary of State for India, accompanied by Mrs. Montagu, and by his brother, Captain the Hon. Lionel Montagu, will arrive in Bombay about December 21. The visit, a purely holiday one without political significance, will extend to the middle of March.

A marriage has been arranged between Air-Marshal Sir John Salmond, K.C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Air-Officer Commanding the British Forces in Irak, younger son of Major-General Sir William Salmond, K.C.B., and the late Lady Salmond, and the Hon. Monica Grenfell, elder daughter of Lord and Lady Desborough.

Colonel Sir Wolseley Haig, K.C.I.E., who has been appointed by the Lyon King of Arms to be March Pursuivant, in the place of Captain Swinton, promoted, had a distinguished career in the Indian Army and the Political Department. Later he held important Consular posts in Persia.

The Duke and Duchess of York returned from Belgrade to London last Thursday evening. Among others at the station to meet their Royal Highnesses were the Roumanian Minister and the Minister of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, Mme. Gavrilovitch, and Mr. J. B. Monck, on behalf of the Marquess Curzon.

Dr. Inglis Clark, D.Sc., F.R.S.E., will deliver a lecture on "North Africa" on Monday, November 19, at 3 p.m., at the Kingsway Hall, W.C.2, in aid of the Convalescent Homes for Mothers and Babies of the National League for Health, Maternity, and Child Welfare. The lecture will be profusely illustrated by a series of original natural-colour photographs. The chair will be taken by Sybil Viscountess Rhondda.

The Bishop of Bombay and Mrs. Palmer, Lady Giffard, Sir Lancelot and Lady Sanderson, the Maharaja of Kapurthala, Kumar-Shri Amarjit Singh of Kapurthala, and Kumar Karanjit Singh of Kapurthala were passengers for Bombay by the P. and O. s. China, which left Marseilles last Friday.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1923.

GREEK MEETS GREEK.

Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason?
For if it prosper, none dare call it treason.

The old couplet will be recalled by many people on reading of the present troubles of Greece. The actual Government of the day owes its existence to a successful *coup d'état*, which drove King Constantine from his throne and led to the execution of six constitutionally appointed Ministers. Its authority has in turn been challenged by a section of the Greek people. Right in this case has been determined by might; but the failure of the insurrectionary movement may not indicate how the real sympathies of the nation lie. Passions have for some time past been roused to fever heat, and an individual Greek brooding over his personal wrongs may have anticipated with complacency the killing of a number of his fellow-countrymen. At heart, however, the country is tired of the internal strife of the last seven years. If it resented the military revolt of a year ago—the accumulating embarrassments of the Revolutionary Committee suggest that this organisation has failed to secure the approval of the nation as a whole—other considerations may prevent it from endorsing an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the Committee, which might have led to further bloodshed and must result in establishing the present régime still more strongly in power. The Committee could always point to its practically bloodless revolution as a national acceptance of its action, and it is not improbable that, had it not been for the execution of the Ministers, the spirit of weariness that had descended upon the country would have prompted the people to acquiesce in a *fait accompli* which gave them at least quiet and ordered government. For that judicial murder, however, the Revolutionary Committee will never be forgiven, and the political opponents of its régime could always count upon a wide national backing. In these circumstances the only kind of counter-revolution that could be justified would be a swift decisive *coup* eliminating the Revolutionaries and establishing in their stead an Administration commanding respect at home and recognition abroad. If such a stroke were not considered feasible, the sole alternative presenting itself to the mind of a leader of the people who wished to deserve well of his country was to work on constitutional lines.

The reasons that prompted General Metaxas and other leaders of the counter-revolution to act at this particular moment are not known. A General Election was promised for December 2. Three years ago the Greek people gave a striking demonstration of what political organisation and discipline can achieve at the polls, and if, as seemed probable, public opinion to-day was no less exercised than it was over the first expulsion of King Constantine, a similar victory on constitutional lines might have been obtained. The opponents of the Committee could point to the unsatisfactory position of Greece under the Revolutionary régime, the internal stagnation and non-recognition by Great Britain, but it is not known that they laboured under more serious grievances that could be said to brook no delay. The movement shows signs of faulty organisation and of having been prematurely launched. In this respect the leaders have incurred a heavy responsibility. There has been too much Greek blood shed in Greece by Greek hands, and no true friends of the country can condone any further toll on Greek life, whatever may be the end in view. British opinion, where judgment is not warped by partisan feeling, will be hostile to any fresh killing, whether it be in the course of eliminating the Revolutionary administration or in suppressing the counter-revolution. The existing Government has been successful in suppressing the insurrection without resorting to fighting, but it has promised condign punishment for the leaders. No one can challenge its right so to deal with them. It will do well, however, to reflect that every further death of a Greek citizen for which it is responsible will serve to widen the breach between the two sections of the Greek people and retard the return of the country to healthy normal conditions. No Government, it will be said, can overlook treason. The reply is that those who have had recourse to treason successfully should be the last to recognise the existence of the crime.

In the failure of the counter-revolution the Revolutionary Committee will be wise to recognise that it has been more fortunate than it had the right to expect. If it allows the leaders of the movement to make their way unhindered out of Greece it will be spared an awkward problem. It has no constituted authority to vindicate; its own political existence was an unhappy one, and it was mainly concerned to protect the lives of its individual members. The abortive insurrection has probably secured them personal immunity, and they are now free to prove that, as we maintained last week, they have always meant well and desired to do their best, according to their lights, for the country. They had realised before the Metaxist outbreak that they themselves constituted the chief obstacle to the material and political rehabilitation of Greece. In spite of their successes in the field, they still remain it; but with this difference—that they can withdraw with a sense of security and with the honours attaching to a voluntary act. The ground has now been cleared for the moderates of all sections, and if the country is to be saved from itself it must be by a coalition of the chief parties. A movement to this end had been started before the outbreak. It is possible that the extremists, conscientiously believing it to be doomed to failure, resolved hurriedly to strike first. They ignored the strife-weariness of the nation behind the bellicose utterances of certain individuals, and there is now a chance for the moderates. In spite of the bitterness of feeling that, it is well known, exists in Greece to-day, there must be a general blotting-out of the past. If the first to realise this fact are the rank and file of the "Metaxists," there is yet hope for the country. The Revolutionary Committee can make way for a Coalition Cabinet, which should proclaim a general amnesty and prepare to hold elections at the earliest possible date

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THE DESERT ROUTE TO BAGHDAD.

The motor service for mails and passengers between Beyrout and Baghdad undertaken by the Nairn Transport Company* was formally opened on October 18, when the new Cadillac cars to be used on this route made their first trip from Beyrout.

In view of the interest attaching to this new line of communication and of its importance to the development of the Middle East, we publish below extracts from a letter written by a lady who recently travelled by the new service to Irak. For some weeks past the service has been in operation for the conveyance of passengers to Baghdad, and of mails and passengers from Baghdad to Beyrout and Haifa, the cars employed being Buicks, previously in use in the mail service between Haifa and Beyrout. It is expected that the conditions

The Start from Damascus.

of the trip will be materially improved by the new Cadillac cars, and the time taken across the desert shortened.

The correspondent writes :—

"Here I am, settled snugly in Basra. It seems so infinitely more than a fortnight or so since you were all gathered round me in England to say your anxious farewells. You were all so apprehensive of the outcome of my 'adventure' that I really began to wonder whether or not there might be something adventurous in travelling across the desert to Baghdad with the first party of women on the Nairn Transport route.

Well, it was very interesting as a trip, but fell far below the standard of your fears as an adventure. Indeed, my experience of this journey, commercially organised though it was, leads me to suspect that certain well-vaunted tales of comparatively recent adventures in the desert contain more of the flavour of literature than the spice of danger.

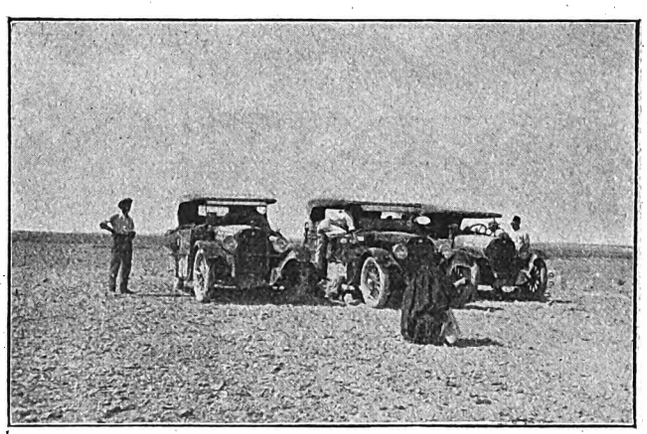
But let me give you the narrative of the journey. We left London (Victoria) at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 12, en route for Trieste. The Channel crossing was perfect. The boat was crowded, yet there was no worry or bother over passport formalities. Two officials sat in the smoke-room, and by the time we had reached Calais all passports had been examined—no crowding and crushing at the last moment when one's attention ought to be given to luggage—no standing in a queue for over an hour. Trieste was reached at midnight on Thursday. We were met by an agent of the Lloyd Triestino line, who took us on board the Vienna, where we passed the night. The boat sailed at noon on Friday, and we arrived at Alexandria on Monday afternoon too late to catch the night train to Haifa. Before landing our tribulations commenced. We were formed into a solid mass of humanity, of diverse nationalities, outside the door of the smoke-room, where our passports were to be examined—first, second, and third saloon passengers all squashed together, all perspiring, all excited, most of them radiating malodorous auras. We were kept waiting over an hour before the leisurely officials deigned to open the door. Then everybody pushed and shoved. Having finally got in and had our passports checked, we were ejected by another door to the deck in a more or less fainting condition, to cope with our luggage. What a contrast to the excellent arrangements on the crossing to Calais!

I followed a procession of coolies and luggage to the Customs House. Having had my luggage booked through from London to Trieste, this was my first trial at the bar of Customs. And what a trial! My things were thrown about without method or decency in the search for new articles. The officials argued in a most bullying manner that everything which was clean was new, and wanted me to pay duty on diverse things, although I insisted that I was only a through passenger. However, in the end I only paid on a pair of slippers.

Next afternoon (Tuesday) we left by train for Benha, where we had to change; and thence to Kantara on the Suez Canal. Here were further Customs formalities over our hand luggage, after which we were ferried across the Canal at 10.30 at night on two rafts in primitive style, the passengers on one raft and the luggage on the other. The train for Haifa left at midnight and arrived at 9.30 next morning, a week after I had left England. The Customs officials descended like vampires on our registered luggage, as at Alexandria, and commenced a hectic search for new articles. Here, again, anything which was clean was regarded as new. But I had had enough of this farce, and a few sharp words enabled me to get through without paying on anything.

A car from the Nairn Transport Company met me at the station at Haifa, and I now commenced what I had feared might be the worst part of my travels, but which proved itself to be the most interesting and enjoyable of all. We drove to Beyrout and arrived there at four in the afternoon, after a six hours' run along the coast. There were two other passengers on the car, Syrians. One great recommendation of the Nairn Company is that all their cars on the desert route have British drivers.

After Haifa we hugged the seashore amongst the



A Halt in the Desert.

camel caravans and other transport. There is no actual road, but the sands are firm and the going good. We ran for a time right along the edge of the seashore, our wheels occasionally washed by the lapping waves. Standing as if on guard over Haifa was Mount Carmel, and I was thrilled with the thought that from its slopes nearly 2,000 years ago was sent forth the message which has penetrated to the uttermost parts of the earth. Just out of Haifa we crossed the Brook of Kishon, and thence through Galilee. Farther along the shore became rocky and impassable for cars. We cut

* The Company's agents in London are the Overseas Bureau for Travel, 8', Pall Mall, S.W.1.

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inland over thick dunes of soft sand, over which the British during the War had laid wire netting of a fine mesh. This made quite a good road, and heavy cars could move over it with speed and safety.

At the Syrian frontier we found the French outpost, where passports were examined and Customs formalities fulfilled. I must mention the courtesy and civility of the French officials—in so noteworthy contrast to our treatment at places under British influence. The French very obviously occupy and administer their territories; but we British seem to be an eternal doormat in our zones, apologetic of our presence and obsessed with the idea of rapidly grafting the principles of Western democratic government on Eastern peoples who are as yet only at variously remote stages in progress from the days when Abraham wandered in the desert with his people, his flocks and his herds.

From this point we found a most excellent road in course of construction by the French, with the aid of prisoners. We passed through Tyre and Sidon, skirting along the foot of the Lebanon, on the way to Beyrout. These are quite fine towns by Eastern standards. The countryside looks much more prosperous than in Palestine, possibly because work rather than politics is encouraged in the French zone. I admired the wonderful olive groves and vineyards and dense orchards of fruits of many kinds. At one point there were extensive mulberry groves, where the silkworm is cultivated and silk manufactured. From Haifa to Beyrout is certainly a most interesting and picturesque car drive.

I was tired when I reached Beyrout, for I had come straight on after a night's journey in the train. But that never failing comfort a cup of tea and a short rest soon made me fit and fresh. I stayed at the Majestic Hotel, which was very clean and the food good. It was also remarkably cheap. But it was very noticeable that prices all round were much more reasonable in the French zone than in countries occupied by the British. The French evidently do not pass themselves off as the lavish philanthropists we do.

The other passengers for Baghdad were arriving from Marseilles direct by the Messageries Maritimes, and, in consequence of having to wait for them, I had to spend Thursday and Friday in Beyrout.

At ten o'clock on Saturday morning we started from Beyrout *en route* for Baghdad, which we were due to reach on Monday night. Beyrout lies at the foot of the Lebanon, and almost at once we began a climb of over 3,000 feet up the "eternal hills." Looking back on Beyrout the view was lovely, till we passed amongst the clouds hugging the hillsides. Then we could see nothing at all in the valley below. It is rather a stiff ascent for a car, but beyond stopping several times to fill up with water we reached Damascus at two o'clock without a halt. Near the top of the Lebanon there is a very fine hotel and a casino. The mountain side is very thickly populated, and appears prosperous, as one would expect of the "hill station" for Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. Indeed, with the development of the Nairn Transport Service, there is no reason why it should not also be the hill station where the tired and jaded officials of Irak could seek coolness and rest from the terrors of the Mesopotamian summer. In the winter a mantle of snow descends on the mountain, and the passage is difficult, but not impossible. At the summit, where it becomes bare and unpopulated, there are little stone huts scattered about, and in these the winter snows are collected and compressed for use for ice purposes in the summer. Except at the top, the hillside is covered

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with vines. Harvesting was in progress, and the grapes were being carried away on the backs of donkeys. We bought two pounds of the most delicious grapes for the equivalent of twopence.

The road was splendid all the way over. After crossing the summit we wound down a steep descent in hairpin bends to a plain a few miles in extent; and at the farther side of it we went up and over the Anti-Lebanon, which is much smaller than Lebanon itself, and not so

Crossing the Euphrates: Fellujah Bridge.

prosperous. Thence through straggling villages by the river we reached Damascus at two in the afternoon. We had to stay the night there, and I put up at the Hotel Victoria. I had come on in the early car in order to have time to see the town. The other two cars of the convoy were not due till later in the day.

From Damascus the convoy travels together, and we rose at four in the morning to be ready to leave at dawn. There were eight passengers, the three British car drivers, a motor engineer, and an Arab guide. The latter is an Akhwan, a sort of freemasonry of the Bedouins, and he is thought to have a better chance of diverting the unwelcome attentions of his brethren should they come our way. Four of the passengers were Englishwomen, one an Englishman, one a French officer, and two were natives of Irak. The leading car carried the guide, and the last car, driven by Mr. Nairn, carried the engineer, Mr. Lovell, who is also a director of the company.

After about thirty miles we were right in the heart of the desert. The surface was very even and very hard, and the convoy bowled along at a rapid pace. There is no defined road, of course, but the Nairn company intend to keep the same track each journey across, and very soon there will be a marked route. It was 1.30 before we stopped for lunch, and meanwhile we had not had a puncture or mishap of any description. The Nairn people provided an excellent picnic lunch, and while the passengers were busy over it, the drivers inspected their cars to ensure getting away without delay, which we did.

The weather was not trying, and the afternoon run was delightful. We had left human habitation far behind, and the only sign of life we saw, human or animal, was a party of gazelle. As a matter of fact, only those in the leading car saw them. Although they have the whole of the desert wherein to seek refuge, these lithe animals generally run for miles in front of a car. Those of us who were in the rear car only saw spurts of dust.

We arrived at the Wadi Harun just before sunset. This is a dried-up watercourse with steep banks and a stony bed, between two and three miles broad. It is believed that the water now runs under the ground. In the bed are the Rutba Wells, the only spot in the desert from Damascus to Ramadi where water is found. The Nairn convoys do not fill up here as a week's supply is carried from Damascus.

The Wadi Harun is the only place in the nature of difficult ground on the route, but it forms a very minor obstacle to the excellent cars and experienced drivers of the convoy. It is the only watering-place in the desert, and consequently the only place near which marauders might be met with. But even there this is most unlikely to happen. Still, the Nairn people take no risks, and it was decided to go a few miles beyond before we camped for the night. The light was now failing, but we crossed without mishap. A few miles on we struck the Cairo-Baghdad air mail track leading from Amman. We found a signpost erected by the Air Force to keep unwary travellers from the Baghdad side following the air track too far in the direction of Amman if they were bound for Damascus. On one side of it was the word "Nairn," pointing away to Damascus, and on the other "R.A.F., 22/9/23." It had only been erected the previous day. We added "Observed 23/9/23," and passed on a short distance and halted for the night. We had done 425 kilometres from Damascus, just over half the distance to Baghdad.

On the camping ground the three cars were drawn up in the form of a *cul de sac*, and to our surprise and delight five camp beds were produced by the convoy and were erected within. After a nice cold supper and tea made with a blow-lamp, we went to bed unwashed at eight o'clock. The drivers got the cars ready to move off at a moment's notice in case of emergency. They had been at the wheel eight hours, and in order that they should be fresh to complete the run to Baghdad next day, the men passengers undertook the duties of guard over the camp in two-hour reliefs. Except for the occasional tramp of the man on watch and the more frequent coughing of the Arab

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guide, our slumbers were full and undisturbed. I have noticed that Arab guides and Arab watchmen generally have a racking cough.

We rose at 4 a.m., had breakfast in the dark, and tea by the aid of the friendly blow-lamp. Beds were stowed away, and we set out at dawn. We were all anxious to reach Baghdad that same night, and we drove for eight hours at a rapid pace over the smooth hard desert. We saw nothing, heard nothing. We simply bowled along. And although we were not driving through beautiful scenery, as on the run from Paris to Trieste, I was not in the least bored. Nor did I find the car journey so tiring as the railway one. About midday we came on an Air Force convoy which was re-marking the stages on the air mail track. We halted a few minutes, took some photographs, had a hasty cup of tea, and pushed on into Ramadi, which we reached at 1.30 p.m. Here we were now in Irak, and passports were examined by the police officer. We also encountered a ubiquitous Customs official, who wanted to have all our baggage, without exception, unstrapped from the cars in order that he might thoroughly ransack each item. We were "Bolshie" over this, and in the end he washed his hands of us and warned his authorities in Baghdad by wire of our coming. I understand that in future the passport and Customs formalities will be done in Baghdad.

Shortly after 2 p.m. we set out for the "City of the Khalifs," which we expected to reach at seven. Till now cars on the desert routes had been making a detour between Ramadi and Baghdad in order to avoid the area which had been flooded in the early summer when the Euphrates overflowed its banks. We were informed that the ordinary road had been reconstructed and was fit for traffic. Unfortunately, it proved to be not yet equal to the heavily-laden cars of the convoy, and about two miles out from Ramadi our front car sank up to the axles. Curiously enough, a Ford car coming from the opposite direction did likewise a few yards in front of our car and at the same time. The sight of each other may have reduced them to a fainting condition. It was a matter of time and difficulty to get the car extricated. With the assistance of some Air Force people it was finally done. But it was now nearing sunset, and we were over four hours' run from Baghdad. The drivers were perfectly willing to go on, but the consensus of opinion amongst the passengers was for returning to Ramadi for the night, and this we did. This section of the route is the only one which at present is difficult. That is due to the floods, and therefore temporary. Twelve of us slept the night on the roof of the house of the Political Inspector, and we were very grateful for the great kindness of Major and Mrs. Ditchburn.

We rose at four, and after a cup of tea we set out for Baghdad at dawn. This time we made the detour round the floods. We crossed the Euphrates at Fellujah, near which we halted for breakfast. The run into Baghdad was uneventful, and we arrived at 11 a.m.

We were all quite fresh, though unwashed. It is impossible to carry water for ablution purposes. A bath and a change of clothing followed, and I felt quite like carrying on the normal routine of a day.

I can thoroughly recommend the Nairn route. The arrangements are excellent—everything is cut-and-dried, and nothing left to chance. The fare is £30 from Beyrout to Haifa, and food is provided. Passengers are limited to 60 lb. of luggage, but this rule is not strictly enforced. I had my cabin trunk and my dressing-case. For anyone in a hurry to reach England, or desirous of avoiding the long sea route, the car service is a blessing. It is much cheaper, too, for those who can make their arrangements ahead. If I did the trip again, I certainly would not travel by the Italian route. But in this case I had no alternative, as I was late in booking and had to take what was offered."

The letter concludes by pointing out that the best route is by Marseilles and the Messageries Maritimes to Beyrout, arrangements for through booking having been completed between the French line and the Nairn Transport Company. Alternatively, it is added, one can travel by P. and O. or Anchor Line to Port Said. In any case, the trip from London to Baghdad can be done by the Nairn route and first-class steamer for under £70, and by choosing cheaper accommodation beyond Beyrout or Haifa it can be done more cheaply still.

THE INDIA SOCIETY.

The Earl of Ronaldshay, in presiding at M. Hackin's lecture before the India Society on October 25 on "Indian Art in Tibet and Central Asia," said that this was one of a series, the object of which had been to determine the extent of the influence exercised by the art of India upon that of the other countries of Asia. India's position in that respect was a very different one from that which most Western critics would have been disposed to assign to it not very many years ago. It was, indeed, only in recent times, he thought, that we in the West had acquired any real understanding of the peculiar genius of Indian art, and had realised its greatness.

Amongst those present at the meeting, which was held at the Institut Français, were: Lady Carmichael, Sir Thomas Arnold, Sir Herbert and Lady Holmwood, Mr. and Mrs. Sen, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Prof. Rothenstein, Dr. Thomas, Prince Soumbatoff, M. Sirén, and Mr. F. Richter (hon. secretary).

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Government's Policy.

It was obvious that the Government could not curtail its measures for the development of inter-Imperial trade to the few proposals tentatively put before the Imperial Economic Conference. While, as I have pointed out, the proposals have been most gratefully received by the Dominions, they can only be regarded as a solution of part of the problems with which we are confronted. They leave the wider questions of trade regulation untouched. No one supposed, however, that the Government was going to stop short at these proposals, and in his keenly awaited speech at Plymouth Mr. Baldwin carried the elucidation of the Government's intentions a long step further. His address followed a number of important declarations by the Australian Prime Minister, Mr. Bruce, General Smuts, and others, who from one point of view or another helped to bring into relief the serious effects of the existing situation. Mr. Baldwin, in the course of his speech, passed in review the whole economic position, and indicated that the view of the Government is that the policy that the case demands is one which calls for the withdrawal of the pledge with regard to fiscal reform. There is apparently no intention to take an immediate decision, and our present fiscal system still offers considerable scope for the development of the policy indicated. Mr. Baldwin pointed out, however, that he will be prepared to take a verdict at any time. In the circumstances, it looks as if we shall probably be in for an election some time next year, the result of which will probably hinge on the attitude taken up towards food taxes. Mr. Baldwin's policy still remains to be set forth in detail, and if, as may be supposed, he is careful to avoid that particular aspect of Protection, then it is quite probable that he will obtain adequate support in the country, for people are no longer so susceptible as they were to the shibboleths that did duty thirty years ago.

The Greek Currant Trade.

Special interest attaches to this year's report of Messrs. Burlumi on the Greek currant market (which is given on page 463), in view of the British Government's proposals in regard to Imperial preference in respect of dried fruit. It will be noted that reference is made to the growing competition that may be expected from Australia, and that it is pointed out that while the Australian currants lack the flavour of the Greek fruit they are in the best condition on delivery. In this connection Messrs. Burlumi draw attention to the handicap under which the Greek growers labour by adhering to the old method of drying, which leaves them at the mercy of the elements, and make the interesting suggestion that they should adopt the Australian method of drying. It is a compliment to Australia, but it also throws a curious light on the old-world methods that have survived in the Near East up to the present time, and must now be altered if trade is not henceforward to flow in new channels.

The British Industries Fair.

It seems only the other day that the British Industries Fair was held, but already the announcements are making their appearance proclaiming the approach of another of these annual events. For very obvious reasons next year's Fair will have an importance exceeding that of its predecessors. It will coincide with the British Empire Exhibition, and should therefore attract a much larger number of buyers than would normally be the case, while it will be held at a time when, if one can judge by the slender indications of improving trade and the increasing prospects of the development of more stable conditions, we shall, at any rate, be within sight of the long-awaited trade revival. Because of the unpromising position in regard to Germany, it is not unnatural that a pessimistic view should obtain at the moment, and that the great prominence given to events in the Ruhr should obscure the very real progress towards reconstruction that is being made in Europe. It is obvious, of course, that until Germany also is recovering commerce will be greatly handicapped, but it is equally certain that the development in other countries will before very long begin to make its influence felt on the world trade returns, and it is on that account that it is possible to look forward to the Fair with more than a little confidence that its results will contribute usefully to the relief of our harassed industries.

Bengal Nagpur Railway.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Bengal Nagpur Railway for the past year. The gross earnings amounted to Rs.7,60,76,669, an increase of Rs.83,76,436, and while this was largely due to higher fares and a rearranged goods tariff, it is to be noted that the freight carried increased by 635,135 tons. The working expenses show only a slight increase at Rs.4,88,51,981, and the net earnings increased by Rs.79,53,601 or nearly 41.27 per cent.. The surplus profits amounted to Rs.58,16,538, the company's share being Rs.5,71,751, which realised £32,558, and with the refund of income tax and super tax makes the receipts in sterling £39,374. In addition to the guaranteed interest for the first half of the year, the shareholders have received an interim dividend of 15s. per cent., together with a bonus of 10s. per cent. less tax. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest a final dividend of 15s. per cent. is proposed, together with a bonus of 10s. per cent., both less tax, making the distribution 6 per cent. less tax for the year.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, October 25.

Policy of Deflation.

Without doubt the main support of the present Radical Cabinet is M. Stojadinovitch, Minister of Finance, who has succeeded in gaining and retaining the confidence of the majority of the public, in spite of increased taxation and a far from perfect administration. His great merit is that he has brought soundness into Yugoslavia's financial policy. He has restored freedom in exchange, and, though the dinar fell for a time, this painful operation was necessary to accomplish a cure. Finally, he put an end to the policy of favouring the retail purchaser, and made it his chief business to promote exports and to adapt the economic policy of the country to the interests of the agrarian population, who number 80 per cent. of the inhabitants of the country. He has accomplished what hitherto no Government has dared to attempt—the raising of the land tax fivefold; he also undertook to reduce the number of State employees, and now he is putting the finishing touch upon his work by a highly necessary policy of deflation. It is true that this policy will spell bankruptcy for many a business concern, and that a shortage of ready money is making itself felt. But improvement continues, and that is the main thing.

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, October 20.

The Currency Problem.

The daily newspapers are full of alarmist headings, such as "The Currency Crisis." This question is, indeed, becoming very acute. The banks are pressing for a further issue of currency, but at a recent interview with a Press correspondent M. Oromolu, the manager of the Banca Nationala, stated that such a step was not contemplated at the present time. According to the statement published by the Banca Nationala on September 30 last, the amount of money then in circulation was 17,426,420,841 lei, and the gold cover amounted to 5,812,227,348 lei, of which over four and a half milliards are represented by bills and Treasury bonds. All the money at present in circulation is paper, with the exception of some 50 and 25 bani nickel pieces, but the Government has lately invited tenders for nickel coins of one and two lei to the value of 150,000,000 lei. Part of this order has already been placed, but the final adjudication will take place in November.

The Present Situation.

In the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament the following reference was made to the financial situation:—

The financial situation of the State is progressively improving. The last Budget balanced, and was the first to do so since the War, and the present position as regards revenues and expenses leads us to believe that the next Budget will also be balanced. By a persevering policy aiming at the re-establishment of order in financial matters, and by the consolidation of our foreign debts, the credit of the State has been re-enforced and we are able to turn our attention to the exploitation of our national riches. This will form the object of the special preoccupations of my Government.

It is certain that the rate of our exchange, though stabilised, is not in a proper relation to the considerably improved situation of the country: nevertheless we are convinced that, thanks to persistent efforts towards that end and to the continued intensification of production, the rate will gradually rise so as to assure to Roumania the financial position which she merits.

New Mining Law.

The following letter appeared about a fortnight ago in a new daily newspaper called *Plutus*, and may be of interest to British industrialists with connections in Roumania, as it professes to give some indication of the contents of the new mining law to be brought forward in the present session of Parliament:—

The mineral deposits of this country constitute one of its chief natural sources of wealth, and for this reason the legislation regarding the proprietary and exploitation rights of these resources is always a matter of special importance. It is therefore natural that we should devote special attention to the new mining law which certain specialists are working on under the supervision, and with the collaboration, of the Ministers of Finance and of Industry. This law will be brought before Parliament after the new Budget has been voted, which will be done immediately after the debates on the Address from the Throne.

Even if the new mining law was to be merely a development of the principles corresponding to the new Constitution, its interest would be important enough; but this law is intended to do much more. For the Government is determined to develop in it all its principles of national political economy, and to establish the conditions of collaboration between private concerns and the State for the exploitation of minerals as well as the working conditions of all private mining enterprises. These principles will be observed in the drafting of the special laws regarding the exploitation of other public properties such as forests, railways, hydraulic power, lands capable of irrigation, fisheries, etc.

On general lines the economic principles of the Liberal Government involve:—(a) The safeguarding of the interests of the State in enterprises connected with national defence. (b) A majority of national capital in all economic enterprises. (c) The protection of the technical and manual Roumanian element in all such enterprises.

Special conditions of exploitation are included in the mining law. On the basis of those provisions all applications for the consolidation of petroleum concessions—applications which have been made to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce since January, 1922, and up to the coming into force of the new law, and which have remained unanswered, will be examined. In the same way the petroleum quota due to the State will be employed according to the rules established by the new mining law. Let us remember that the State intends by the new law to reserve to itself the exclusive right of the sale of petroleum products (within the country, presumably). Possibly this provision of the law will raise wide discussion. But the Government is determined not to give up this principle.

Position of Oil Industry.

Mention has already been made in these columns of the apprehension felt by the oil companies and other concerns as to the probable effects of this law, and it is interesting to note that the oil companies have recently presented another petition to the Government, in which they demand complete freedom for their industry.

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British Consular Reports.

IX.—GREECE.

The following extracts are taken from the report on the industrial and economic situation in Greece of Mr. R. F. H. Duke, C.B.E., Commercial Secretary, British Legation, Athens :—

The year 1922 succeeded to a legacy of economic and financial difficulties. The 1921-22 budget, on its presentation in April, 1922, revealed a deficit of over 1,678 millions. The issue of bank-notes had increased to 2,500 million drachmæ. The campaign in Asia Minor was still being carried on with indifferent success, involving a heavy drain upon the country's resources. It can, therefore, scarcely be wondered at that the value of the drachma in comparison with the more stable elements of European currency continued to fall, and its fall was encouraged by the growing reluctance of Greek emigrants to send remittances home in the generally disquieting conditions which prevailed. At the same time the continued slump in trade, and especially in shipping throughout the world, put an end to the temporary prosperity which had been acquired by Greek merchants and shipowners during the period immediately following the war.

The Government under the Constantinist régime maintained the "Consortium of Banks" system, which had been introduced with the object of limiting the purchase of foreign exchange and directing it into channels of the greatest economic utility, but which, in fact, obstructed the freedom of import trade, and the necessity of meeting this large budgetary deficit inspired two important measures of taxation—the forced loan, and the doubling of the general income-tax.

The advent of the revolutionary Government, following the débâcle in Asia Minor in September, had no immediate effect upon the economic situation, although the Government were animated by a genuine desire to re-establish the commercial and financial prestige of the country. Foreign credits were not forthcoming, and, in order to obtain foreign exchange, the Government had accordingly to resort to another device—that of commandeering a percentage of the foreign exchange obtained from the export of native products.

At the same time, to meet their heavy expenditure they have exploited every field of revenue, from increased customs and other duties to the imposition of novel forms of direct taxation both of income and capital, and, on the security of the somewhat problematical returns from these sources, have borrowed largely from the National Bank which has been permitted to issue large additional quantities of paper money. They have not hesitated to intervene—though not openly—in the control of the rate of exchange, which has passed through the widest fluctuations during the short period which has followed the establishment of the revolutionary régime. A general feeling of uneasiness and uncertainty in commercial and industrial circles has resulted, while confidence abroad in the ability of Greece to reinstate herself has not been encouraged.

The effect of these conditions upon the development of British trade has been serious: the prices at which British goods had to be sold became more and more prohibitive to the Greek buyer, apart altogether from the fact that the instability of the rates made their handling by importers a matter of pure speculation. Great difficulties were experienced by British manufacturers and exporters in obtaining payment for merchandise supplied, the excuse frequently being the genuine one of inability to obtain sterling through the Consortium, and, where deposits in drachmæ in lieu were made with local banks, British firms saw their value in sterling diminishing day by day and had to make up their minds whether to accept drachmæ and cut their losses or hold on in the hope of an ultimate improvement in the exchange. Greek purchasers have often refused to take up documents and goods have been left on the hands of the banks and have had to be sold for what they would fetch. The Greek Government themselves, faced with the necessity of constant cash payments for immediate military requirements, appeared to experience difficulties in meeting their liabilities for contracts with British firms or requisitions of British goods.

The Legation was able at the end of the year to obtain, as a special concession, the payment of one instalment of £5,000 in respect of coal requisitions amounting to some £22,000 in value, a further instalment of the same amount being promised in due course, but, with the exception of certain cases where personal influence has been brought to bear by local agents with the strong support of the Legation to secure payment or arrive at a compromise, the total claims of British firms, both in respect of requisitions and contracts, stood at the end of 1922 practically where it was at the beginning of the year, viz., at about £1,300,000, fresh claims and increased interest having counterbalanced the amount of approximately £62,200 recovered during the past nine months

The position accordingly shows no improvement upon that prevailing at the end of 1921 as regards the development of British trade with Greece, and the views expressed both by the competent authorities early in the year as to the inadvisability of endeavouring to encourage it during the present economical crisis, cannot but be endorsed by the further experiences of conditions.

There remain two questions affecting British commercial relations with Greece, namely, the opportunities of obtaining contracts for constructional work or concessions for the development of the natural resources of Greece, and the position of British firms already established and operating in the country.

As regards the former, Greece continues to be a country of almost infinite opportunity, of which, however, present conditions render it impracticable to take full advantage. For many years British firms have been looking forward to the possibility of obtaining such concessions as the Piræus harbour works, the Athens water supply, telephone installation, the drainage of the Struma and Vardar valleys, the reconstruction of the railways, the development of electric power from the Aliakmon and Achelous rivers, and the like. Hardly a day has passed since the establishment of the revolutionary régime without an announcement in the Press of a proposed convention for the development of some railway, or an offer from a group of capitalists for the irrigation of some valley. Various proposals have, in fact, been put forward by American and French financiers—for the most part of an obviously unacceptable character—and informal inquiries have been received at the Legation from prominent members of the Greek financial and commercial world as to the possibility of interesting British engineers and capitalists in one or other of the schemes which have been so long in contemplation. But British firms have shown themselves somewhat shy of venturing further into paths which have so often in the past proved to be culs-de-sac.

(To be continued.)

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Good Spot Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 24:—

Egyptian Spot.—A good spot inquiry has been in evidence throughout the week, but, with the exception of to-day, when the sales were returned as 500 bales, the actual results had been rather disappointing. Prices have been governed chiefly by the course of the American market, and fluctuations have resulted as a matter of course. The feature of the week has been the further narrowing of the difference between Sakellaridis and Brown and Upper in the official quotations, and we have reason to believe that this has been still further accentuated in some of the transactions which have taken place. For example, the quoted difference between F.G.F. Upper and Sakel of the same grade is given to-day as 80 points, but, in our opinion, 50 points would be nearer the mark. An improved inquiry has been seen for Brown Egypts, and also for the best white cotton, such as Voltos and Abbassi. Both qualities are very hard to find on the spot at the present time, and little business has resulted. For Sakellaridis, the demand continues to revolve round cotton at about 100 points on the January contract, and sales of the better grades have only occurred occasionally.

Uppers have attracted the bulk of the inquiry again, but the high prices now asked for this cotton have succeeded in many cases in blocking business, and most spinners have contented themselves with merely keeping posted. We suspect that a decline of ½d. per lb. (should it occur) would bring in quite a lot of buying, although signs are not wanting that quite a number of spinners have bought their requirements for the immediate future. An improved business has taken place in Sudan cotton, buyers paying up to 160 on contracts. The demand for Low and re-cleaned cotton shows signs of gradually decreasing. C.i.f. business has not been so much in evidence this week. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending the 19th inst. were returned as 5,733 Egyptian and 472 Sudan. Estimated sales 2,000 Egyptians and 950 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are advanced 5 points. whilst those of Brown and Upper are 45 points higher on the week. Fully good fair Sakel to-day 18.45d.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Moderate Demand.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in their report for the week ended October 19 state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been heavy for Sakellarides and fairly firm for Ashmounis. The demand from abroad has been rather moderate and mostly for Uppers, the result being a sharp narrowing of the difference betwen November Sakellarides and December Ashmouni. Naturally, it is the continued firmness of the American markets and the high level of prices attained which has contributed to this demand for Uppers, the price of which, if the dollar exchange is taken into consideration, is almost at parity with the New York contract, although Upper Egypt cotton is intrinsically so much more valuable. The position for Sakellarides is not very bright for the time being; consumption is again this year principally aiming at the cheapest possible article, and whatever demand there is at present for the fine counts is amply met by the present supplies of Sakellarides. Arrivals from upcountry have been very heavy, and a fair quantity of hedges have been put out against them by banks and merchants. Speculation has continued the policy of not committing itself for large lines, and there are only small positions held. The week's receipts amounted to 328,208 krs., against exports 141,166 krs.; the stock stands at 1,358,163 krs.

Spot: We have had a busy week at Minet el Bassal and sales amount to about 29,250 b/s, of which we estimate 14,800 b/s Sakel, 13,900 b/s Uppers, 50 b/s Brown, 250 b/s Pilion, and 250 b/s White. During this week the Egyptian Government bought about 1,200 bales of Sakel f.g.f. and f.g.f. to good. The crop movement in the interior is heavy, and we have had large arrivals. Exports keep up well, but the stock has increased considerably. Upper Egyptian continues to be in active request, and has constituted a large proportion of the week's business, as it compares very favourably at present levels with prices of American cotton of similar staple and grade.

Sakellarides.—Medium and good qualities continue to be in most demand, the lower grades finding only a few buyers. Prices of spot against contracts are without change except for fair and the grades above good, which are inclined to ease a little.

Uppers.—All grades have been dealt in and the medium qualities especially have been in good request. Spot differences with contracts have not changed much from last week.

Brown.—A small business has been done. Spot quotations are without much change except for good, which is a little easier.

Pilion.—A fair business has been done in the better styles. Spot prices are without much change, except good, which is inclined to ease.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Extensive Inquiry.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended October 27, states:—

Prices have hardened all round during the past week, but shippers here do not find that their principals abroad are willing to follow the advance. There has been a large inquiry, mainly on the basis of prices ruling a week ago. Except in the case of manufacturers who bought their cotton or yarn some time ago, much of this inquiry has been impracticable. However, it is at least a welcome change to find that buyers abroad are willing to follow a rising market, even though a week too late, and possibly if there were to be a period of stability a more active business might transpire.

Yarn.—A slight improvement can be reported, though the conditions still leave much to be desired. Following somewhat improved sales stocks are a little lower than they were, and spinners are showing more disposition to reject unfavourable offers. In a general way quotations for American spinnings are ½d. to ¾d. per lb. dearer than a week ago, and it is interesting to mention that the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners have recommended a continuation of the 50 per cent. reduction in output in this section. A ballot on the question is to be taken shortly. An encouraging business has been done in Egyptian spinnings, which remain firm.

Cloth.—There has been considerable activity in giving out quotations in reply to a large volume of inquiry, which, however, as mentioned above, has unfortunately been on a basis of prices ruling a week ago. Nevertheless, it appears unquestionable that a somewhat improved turnover has been obtained, particularly in "dhooties" for India. China has displayed more interest, and the Near Eastern markets have taken numerous small lots for quick delivery, and in some cases at better prices. The Home trade has shown a little improvement, and colonial inquiries have been met with.

Raw Cotton.—A moderately good business has been done in Liverpool, and the general tone of the market has been strong Weather conditions in America have not been satisfactory, and the Government report on the crop condition, as at October 25, is awaited with considerable interest. This is expected to be issued on the 2nd prox.

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GREEK CURRANTS.

Australian Drying System Advocated.

Messrs. Burlumi's annual report, dated October 24, states: Our last report was dated October 3, 1921, when we estimated the 1921-22 crop of currants at about 120,000 tons. The currants shipped to foreign countries in the season 1921-22 amounted to 95,000 tons, and were distributed as follows:—United Kingdom 58,000 tons, United States and Canada 23,000 tons, Holland and Germany 13,100 tons, France and other parts of the world 900 tons: 95,000 tons.

The Privileged Company received during the season in their warrant stores 9,000 tons, all of which had been withdrawn before the end of the season. No dried fruit had been offered to the company for purchase, the ruling market prices being always very much higher than the convention limits. In their retention stores the company received 21,000 tons, making 24,000 tons with the certificates in circulation on August 22, 1921. The land tax in kind at 18 per cent. on the exported quantities absorbed 17,000 tons, and certificates representing 7,000 tons have been carried over. The stock of old fruit carried over to the season 1922-23 hardly exceeded 2,500 tons. Deducting 1,500 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season 1920-21, we find that the crop of 1921 has yielded 117,000 tons against 89,000 tons in 1920, and 127,500 tons in 1919. The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom for the year ended August, 1922, amounted to 60,265 tons against 58,895 tons in 1921 and 63,000 tons in 1920. The stock of currants in the United Kingdom as returned by the Board of Trade at the end of August was 5,600 tons against 9,980 tons in 1921 and 15,000 tons in 1920. The quality of the 1921 crop was rather poor, especially the provincial growths. The crop of 1922-23 was estimated at about 115,000 tons, and was distributed as follows:—United Kingdom 61,000 tons, United States and Canada 7,500 tons, Holland and Germany 11,000 tons, France and other parts of the world 500 tons: 80,000 tons. The falling off of the export to America was due principally to the large stock carried over in the States at the end of the 1921-22 season, and the competition of Californian raisins, which were much cheaper than currants. The Privileged Company received during the season 1922-23 in their warrant stores about 4,000 tons, all withdrawn before the season. In their retention stores the company received 24,000 tons, making 31,000 tons with the certificates in circulation on August 22, 1922. The land tax in kind at the rate of 35 per cent. on the exported quantities absorbed 27,000 tons, and certificates representing 7,000 tons have been carried over to the season 1923-24.

At the beginning of the year growers suggested several measures to be taken by the Government to stimulate the export to America, and relieve the market of the surplus of production. Finally, it was decided that the Government should buy a quantity of from 10,000 to 15,000 tons at fixed prices from 2,800 to 3,000 drachmæ per thousand Venetian pounds according to quality, which would be sold to the home manufacturers of wine and spirits. The loss to the Government was to be met by the surplus of the drachmæ which the Government secured on the exported currants exchange. In fact, the Government was controlling, up to last May, the exchange of exported currants, and paid successively 99, 138, and 155 drachmæ per pound sterling, while on the free market the pound went up from 100 to 400 drachmæ. A convention was signed between the Government, the National Bank of Greece, and the Privileged Company, for the execution of this scheme, and when prices dropped down to the Convention's limits, the Privileged Company received for account of the Government in its stores, the quantity of 19,907,972 Venetian pounds (9,355 tons). The stock of old fruit carried over to the season 1923-24 hardly exceeded 5,000 tons. Deducting 2,500 tons of old fruit brought over from the previous season, 1921-22, we find that the crop of 1922 has yielded 118,000 tons, against 117,000 tons in 1921, and 89,000 tons in 1920.

The clearances for home consumption in the United Kingdom for the year ended August, 1923, amounted to 59,307 tons against 60,265 tons in 1922, and 58,895 tons in 1921. The stock of currants in the United Kingdom as returned by the Board of Trade at the end of August, 1923, was 6,550 tons against 5,600 tons in 1922, and 9,980 tons in 1921. Australian currants of about 4,000 tons, imported between May and June, and consumed yearly in the United Kingdom, are included in the Board of Trade returns. The production of Australian currants is increasing yearly in the Murray Valley of the Commonwealth; these will be in future an important competitor for Greek currants, which have lost their natural monopoly. Greek growers must bear that fact in their minds, and try to improve the quality of their fruit and reduce their expenses in order to be able to compete successfully. Although wanting in flavour, the Australian currants are in magnificent condition, very dry, and splendidly cleaned. The process of drying is quite different from the Greek process, and we suggest the adoption of the Australian drying system in order to obtain better qualities, attractive to the buyers in the international markets. The Australian drying system is about similar to that used in the Vostizza Province, and is described to us by a competent correspondent as follows:—"The driers are roofed sheds, often extending clear across a vineyard or orchard. They are simply constructed. Posts of native timber are set about nine feet apart, and light 1 by 1½ inch pieces are nailed across them. A roof of sheet steel is placed above, and 10 to 12 framed net wire trays are laid in tiers about nine inches apart, one above the other, on the crosspieces. The rain is kept out, and the air has free circulation. It is said that dry air and not sunlight accomplishes the best drying, and preserves the natural colour better, and it was found that wire netting made good trays, and only costs half that of wooden ones." The Australian drying system is naturally more costly than the Greek traditional drying on the ground, and the financial position of the Greek grower does not allow him heavy expenses. We think, however, that if the Australian drying system was forced upon the growers by special legislative measures, the means of covering the expenses could be very easily found. Every currants growing community might borrow the necessary funds by issuing bonds, whose interest and amortisation would be guaranteed by the Government. A special tax on currants produced, or the proceeds of the retention currants after the expiration of the Privileged Company's convention in July, 1925, if retention is to go on, would cover the Government for the guarantee of the bonds. The general opinion among the growers is, we think, ripe for the accomplishment of this reform in the drying methods of currants. The grower will be relieved from the fearful anxiety of three to four weeks' drying on the ground, when he is looking at the barometer, and loses his head at the first drop of rain. We shall have no more rain-damaged fruit, and the good quality obtained will surely lead to the increase of consumption.

The privilege of the Chartered Company created in 1905 comes to an end in July, 1925. It is doubtful whether the shareholders of the company will care for a renewal of its privilege, and it is more doubtful whether the growers and the Greek Government will consent to this renewal. Conditions in the currant trade have changed since 1905.

The crops have been greatly reduced. From 185,000 tons produced in 1905, and 183,000 in 1903, the yield has fallen to 95,000 tons in 1923, and practically there is no overproduction. When normal conditions prevail in Germany, and this country begins to import its usual supply of currants, the quantity produced will hardly be sufficient to cover the demands of universal consumption. Retention, however, may continue for some time in order to absorb low qualities, and provide the wine and spirits home manufacturers with raw materials at low prices. The Chartered Company might continue its operations on a new basis, and with the co-operation of the growers' co-operative societies. It would be a mistake to let the company be dissolved and the capital distributed among the shareholders. Greece wants cheap foreign capital for the development of its resources, and the experience of twenty years' management of the currant trade, by the Privileged Company, is a valuable asset which cannot be set aside without prejudice to all concerned. Of course, new conditions must be devised, and the sphere of action of the company modified according to the present state of things, and in agreement with the growers' representatives.

The crop of 1923 has been estimated by the Privileged Company and the Government at 95,000 tons, and the retention quantum for the season 1923-24 was fixed at 15 per cent. in kind and 20 per cent. in cash.

The exchange had very violent fluctuations during 1921, 1922, and 1923. From 50 drachmæ in the spring of 1921 the pound jumped to 110 drachmæ in September, 1921, and 200 drachmæ in September, 1922. After the Asia Minor disaster the pound was worth 230. The revolution and the overthrowing of King Constantine inspired confidence, and the pound went down to 160 drachmæ for a time, but jumped to over 400 drachmæ at the end of 1922. The prospect of peace and very drastic financial measures of the revolutionary Government brought it down to 120 drachmæ in the spring of the present year. But Greece has to feed and settle down over one million refugees, and the strain upon its limited resources had again an unfavourable influence upon its finances. The pound at the moment of writing has jumped again to 300 drachmæ. The decision of the Paris Conference of Ambassadors and the allowance to Italy of an unjustified indemnity of half-a-million pounds was surely the immediate reason of this depreciation of the drachma. It is, however, wonderful how the country has been able to go through all the misfortunes it has had during these last few years and yet has been able to keep its currency at a relatively low level, considering that all neighbouring Balkan States, living in peace since the Armistice, have seen their currency at a much lower rate than the drachma.

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BENGAL-NAGPUR RAILWAY.

The report of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company for the year ended March 31 states that the gross earnings amounted to Rs.7,60,76,669, while the working expenses were Rs.4,88,51,981, the net earnings being Rs.2,72,24,688. The gross earnings increased by Rs.83,76,436, or 12.37 per cent.; the working expenses increased by Rs.4,22,835, or 0.87 per cent.; and the net earnings increased by Rs.79,53,601, or nearly 41.27 per cent. Surplus profits depend on the net earnings for a year exceeding interest charges for same period. The results of working for the year are:—Net earnings, Rs.2,72,24,688; deduct interest on open line capital, Rs.2,14,31,179, leaving Rs.57,93,509; add on account of outstandings, Rs.23,029; surplus profits, Rs.58,16.538. The company's share of surplus profits amounted to Rs.5,71,751, which, remitted to this country, produced £32,558. In addition, a refund of income-tax and super-tax realised £6,816, making a total receipt for the year of £39,374. The shareholders have received as guaranteed interest for the first half of the year £1 15s. and an interim dividend of 15s. per cent., plus a bonus of 10s. per cent., less tax. In addition to the second half of the guaranteed interest at £1 15s., less tax at 4s. 6d. in the £, the directors, in view of the prospects of the current year, feel justified in recommending an additional payment (to be met partly from reserve) of a further dividend of ¾ per cent., and a bonus of 10s. per cent. for the year, both less tax at 2s. 7½d. in the £, making 6 per cent., less tax, for the year.

GOOD DEMAND FOR IVORY

Messrs. Hale and Son, in their report dated October 25, state:—The quarterly ivory sales commenced on the 23rd, and concluded on the 25th instant. They comprised 52¾ tons (against 63 tons same time last year), viz., 27¾ tons Zanzibar, Bombay, Mozambique, East African, and Siam, 1¼ tons Abyssinian, 17 tons Egyptian (Alexandrian description), 6 tons West Coast African, and ¾ ton land carriage; also ¼ ton rhinoceros horns, and ¼ ton sea horse tusks. Total, 53¼ tons. The East Indian and East African descriptions consisted of 16 tons soft tusks, 1½ tons hard and Siam, 2 tons billiard ball pieces, ¾ ton bagatelle pieces, 1¼ tons cut points for balls, 1 ton cut points off large tusks, ¾ ton under-sized and defective points, etc., 1¼ tons billiard ball scrivelloes, ¼ ton bagatelle scrivelloes, 1 ton scrivelloes, and 2 tons cut hollows. The whole of the above was new import with the exception of 1¼ tons, which were ex sale or indirect import, viz., ½ ton Egyptian and ¾ ton land carriage. During the sales only about one ton in all was bought in. There was a fair attendance of buyers and a good demand. The quantities brought forward were much in excess of that offered at the previous auctions, and the extreme prices then realised were not maintained. America and the Continent were fairly large buyers and the Home trade bought as usual.

Abyssinian.—Large and medium tusks declined £8 to £12 per cwt. Scrivelloes £2 to £6 per cwt. lower, and ball scrivelloes £10 to £15 per cwt.

Egyptian.—Consisted of the Alexandrian description. Soft large and medium tusks were £8 to £12 per cwt. lower. Hard £2 to £5 per cwt. lower. Billiard ball scrivelloes £10 to £15 per cwt., and scrivelloes £2 to £6 per cwt. easier. Soft bangle tusks sold £8 to £12 per cwt. under last sales' rates.

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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW P. AND O. LINER.

Maloja's Successful Trials.

The Maloja, a new passenger liner of 21,000 tons gross register, successfully completed a series of trials in Belfast Lough and afterwards left for Tilbury Dock where she arrived on October 27 to load for her maiden voyage to Bombay on which she is scheduled to sail to-morrow. Her dimensions are, length 625 feet, breadth 73 feet 3 inches, depth 44 feet; she is divided into twelve watertight compartments by eleven watertight bulkheads carried to the shelter deck, and her double bottom extends right fore and aft. The Maloja is propelled by twin screws, driven by two sets of inverted, direct acting, quadruple expansion engines balanced on the Yarrow, Schlick, and Tweedy system, and will burn oil fuel. Luxurious accommodation has been provided for 327 first and 329 second saloon passengers all of whom will be accommodated at one sitting in the spacious dining saloons. The cabins in the first saloon are chiefly bedstead cabins for one or two people, while the majority of those in the second saloon are designed to accommodate two passengers only. The electric installation on the vessel is of an elaborate character and thoroughly up-to-date in every respect.

The Maloja has followed very closely the entry into the P. and O. Company's service of her sister ship, the Mooltan, and, although programmed to sail to Bombay on her maiden voyage, she and her sister are primarily intended for the company's mail and passenger service to Australia for which trade these vessels are the largest yet built.

Lord Inchcape, the Chairman of the P. and O. Company, with his daughter, the Hon. Elsie Mackay, as well as a number of the company's directors and officials, were on board during the trials and accompanied the vessel to London.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Elysia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 3).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Media for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 8); s.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 17); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 5); s.s. Leicestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 7).

British India Line.—S.s. Matiana for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 9); s.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 10); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 23); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 24).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macmillan for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 13).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunkirk for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 20).

Ellerman, Bucknall, and Strick Lines.—S.s. Jeypore for Persian Gulf (Manchester, November 6).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Mourino for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, November 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Jessmore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, November 3). (This is the last steamer of the season for the Danube.) S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 17).

Moss Line.—S.s. Esneh for Cyprus and Syrian coast ports (Liverpool, November 9).

Papayanni Line.—S.s. Destro for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, November 3).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola for Bombay (London, November 16); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, November 30); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. Scottish Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 6).

The Burma Railways Company recommends a final dividend of £1 5s. per cent., together with a bonus of £2 10s. per cent., both subject to tax, to be distributed with the guaranteed interest of £1 5s. per cent., less tax, payable January 1, making in all £8 10s. per cent. for the year.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BENGAL DOOARS RAILWAY.

Large Increase in Net E rnings.

The thirty-third ordinary general meeting of the Bengal Dooars Railway Co., Ltd., was held at the offices of the company, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, on October 30.

The Secretary (Mr. F. J. Horne) read the notice convening the meeting and the auditor's report.

The Chairman (Mr. Robert Miller) in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: When I addressed you in November last the best I could say was that we had been suffering from a financial and commercial depression which was being generally experienced throughout the world, but that conditions had improved and prospects were good. The results for the year under review have, I am pleased to say, justified our forecast, and I have, therefore, a much more satisfactory report to present to you, increases being shown under almost every head. On reference to the revenue account, it will be seen the aggregate earnings for the year were Rs.18,13,192, as compared with Rs.14,27,068—a substantial increase of Rs.3,86,124. Coaching traffic shows an increase of Rs.55,261, the chief reason for this being we carried 136,266 more third-class passengers than during the previous year. There was also an increase in the carriage of passengers' luggage and parcels. The most important improvement, however, was in goods traffic, which shows an increase of Rs.3,31,990. You will perhaps remember that during the previous year the tea and jute industries were under a cloud. This position has, I am glad to say, since been reversed, and, assisted by a slight increase in some of our rates, which came into effect on April 1, 1922, substantial improvements have resulted. In commodities classified as general merchandise, tea shows an increase in earnings of Rs.1,18,609, and jute, as a result of a good crop and an improved demand, an increase of Rs. 34,837. The carriage of metals ranks next in order of improvement with an increase of Rs.23,715. Then follow chalk, lime, and limestone, Rs.11,074, and oils, Rs.7,355. Other articles of merchandise carried, including cotton, marble and stone, provisions, salt, spices, sugar, and wood, show an aggregate increase of Rs.58,281. Decreases are shown under grain and pulse Rs.5,232, chiefly due to smaller exports of rice and paddy from the southern section of the railway to other districts; under tobacco Rs.5,361, which was due to a bad crop; and under railway materials for construction, revenue stores, and other heads, amounting to Rs.5,371. In the carriage of coal for the public the increase was Rs.94,033—partly due to larger imports of fuel by the tea gardens and partly to increased rates. With regard to the expenditure, i.e., the debit side of the revenue account, I feel we have every reason for congratulation that our manager, Mr. J. A. Polwhele, has so successfully continued the economical working of the railway. The aggregate expenditure under all heads amounts to Rs.8,85,885, as compared with Rs.8,68,879, an increase of only Rs.17,006, and this notwithstanding the larger volume of business handled. This you can possibly better appreciate when I tell you that the percentage of working expenses to gross earnings, which for the year ended March 31, 1922, was 60.89, was, for the year under review, only 48.86.

The final result of all this is that for the year ended March 31, 1923, our net earnings amounted to Rs.9,27,307, as compared with Rs.5,58,189 for the previous year—a satisfactory increase of Rs.3,69,118. With regard to capital expenditure, this aggregated for the whole system £4,340, of which £3,043 was for the construction of third-class bogie carriages.

As I have already said, we were entirely free of flood troubles for the year under review; but during July, 1923, exceedingly heavy rains were experienced in the Dooars, resulting in washouts on the Chalsa Matelli Branch and in some damage to bridges. Fortunately, traffic was only temporarily held up whilst protective repair measures were being taken. The worst trouble was at Barnes Junction, where the river has encroached to such an extent as to necessitate the dismantling of some of our buildings and yards. This might have resulted in serious loss of traffic had it not been that years ago we foresaw the likelihood of this happening, and in 1914 constructed an emergency line to carry our traffic should the river encroach to the extent it has done. This emergency line was at once opened, and business was continued as usual with little or no inconvenience or delay to passengers or goods.

I will now turn to the net revenue account. After increasing the net earnings by the sum of Rs.3,133 received from the guarantors of the Chalsa Matelli Branch and after deducting Indian income-tax amounting to Rs.79,479,

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there remains an amount equivalent in sterling at exchange 1s. 4d. to £56,730 14s. 8d. To this amount must be added £1,445 5s. 10d. interest on investments, and the balance of £40,023 19s. 11d. brought in from the accounts of the previous year, making a total of £98,200 0s. 5d. From this sum provision has been made for the payment of one year's dividend on the Preference stock amounting to £14,400, for reserve for income-tax and corporation profits tax £4,000, and for differences on exchange £305 13s. 6d., which leaves a balance in net revenue account of £79,494 6s. 11d. Of this an amount of £3,000 has been carried to reserve, and an interim dividend of 3 per cent. was paid on the Ordinary stock in April, 1923, absorbing £12,000, leaving £64,494 6s. 11d. to be dealt with.

I think you will agree with me that these results are quite good, and a further pleasing feature is that the traffic returns have been well maintained since the close of the company's financial year. At September 29, 1922, the approximate statement of coaching and goods receipts amounted to Rs.9,13,643. At the corresponding date in this year they totalled Rs.9,47,068, so that in fact there is an improvement of approximately Rs.33,425 over for that period.

Our manager, Mr. J. A. Polwhele, in a recent report on the current year's traffics, says "the prospects are very good," and from his detailed remarks on the coaching traffic we have every reason to believe that we shall at least have as profitable a year as the year ended March, 1923.

Under the favourable conditions which I have explained to you the directors have decided to recommend that a final dividend of 4 per cent. and a bonus of 2 per cent. should be paid on the Ordinary stock, making a total distribution of 9 per cent. for the year, and leaving a balance of £40,494 6s. 11d. to be carried forward.

Before I move the necessary resolutions I have pleasure in again recording the appreciation of myself and my colleagues of the valuable services which our manager in India and his assistants have for so many years rendered to this company, and in this I should like to include the members of the London office staff.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Brereton, and was unanimously carried.

The proposed dividend and bonus were adopted, the retiring director was re-elected, the auditors were reappointed, and the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the South Indian Railway Co., Ltd., was held on October 24 at the offices, 91, Petty France, Westminster. Sir Henry Kimber, Bart., chairman of the company, presided.

The Chairman said that the revenue account showed record gross earnings of nearly 489 lakhs of rupees, representing an increase of nearly 49 lakhs of rupees. The passenger earnings had increased by nearly 23 lakhs of rupees, notwithstanding a decrease of 3¾ millions, or 8 per cent., in the number of passengers carried. The decrease in total numbers carried under all classes was to be attributed to the general depression in trade coinciding with the raising of fares, and experience justified the view that the decrease was probably only temporary, as, on the previous occasion of raising fares, a decrease of 8,000,000 passengers in the year 1917-18 had been more than recovered two years later. The earnings from public merchandise increased by more than 27 lakhs, on a decrease of about 8 per cent. in the volume of traffic. The working expenses amounted to Rs.344 lakhs or 28½ lakhs more than in the previous year. Economies were being diligently sought for, and were stated to be in process of realisation.

The company's share of the surplus profits for the year 1922-23 amounted to Rs.2,92,039, as compared with Rs.2,16,799 in the previous year. The balance at credit amounted to £108,862, which was £16,408 less than the balance in hand when they met last year. In all the circumstances, and taking a comprehensive view of the future, the Board felt justified in making their recommendation that the final dividend for the year should be at the same rate as in each of the three previous years. Mr. J. Izat, a State railway officer who had been deputed to carry out an investigation into the railway requirements of South India, had presented a series of admirable reports, in which he set out clearly the urgent necessity for immediate development, and mentioned specifically some twenty-six new projects, indicating the order of urgency in which they should be dealt with. The total new mileage covered by these twenty-six projects largely exceeded the figure of nearly 1,000 miles which he mentioned last year as awaiting sanction and funds to carry out.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 652—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Crisis in Greece.

The Greek Government has lost no time in bringing to trial the insurgent leaders. At Salonika a day sufficed to deal with nineteen officers, of whom three were sentenced to death. A further court-martial was to be held at Eleusis last week, but at the moment of writing the results of this trial are not known in this country. It is evident that the Government does not intend to indulge in vindictiveness; it will add to the good impression that its handling of the insurrection has created so far, if it can see its way to commuting the death sentences. In the meantime General Metaxas is reported to have escaped from Greece and, after being refused admission into Italy, to be making his way to Spain. His flight and future exile should make an ultimate reconciliation of parties in Greece easier than it could ever be if he had been condemned to death and executed for an unsuccessful appeal to arms.

Aftermath of the Rising.

For some time past, at the prompting of M. Venizelos, the idea of changing Greece from a monarchy to a republic has presented itself to a section of the Greek public as a short cut out of the country's existing troubles. The recent success of the Government over the Metaxist insurrection apparently raised the hopes of the advocates of a republic; but to the credit of the Revolutionary régime, which is Venizelist at heart, though not officially so styled, the Cabinet refused to be stampeded into such a sweeping change and convened a "national conference" of leading citizens to discuss the proposal. The conference decided against the establishment of a republic, and there cannot be the least doubt that its verdict will be endorsed by the Greek people as a whole. Prominent Venizelists spoke against any constitutional change, and during the Conference a telegram was received from M. Venizelos himself deprecating any "rash" step at the present time and pointing out that any violent change in the Constitution would alienate all foreign sympathy from Greece. In the circumstances it can only be considered unfortunate that M. Venizelos should at any time have lent his great name to the republican theory. If we held, as he does, that a republic would not be in conflict with the Greek genius, we should certainly not urge Greece to forgo her national inclination for the sake of the *beaux yeux* of foreign countries. Greece in common with other Balkan States needs to stand on her own feet, to rely upon herself and to plan her own political and economic development as her own unaided strength permits. We believe, however, that the decision of the "national conference" is entirely in keeping with the national instinct, and that a republic for Greece would merely perpetuate the temporary ills from which she is suffering.

The Republican Theory.

The decision of the conference which rejected the proposal for the establishment of a Greek republic was reached in the absence of General Pangalos, Commander-in-Chief, Colonel Kondylis, and Captain Hajikyriakos, commanding the Navy, who arrived late for the meeting. A few days later these three officers posted a manifesto in the streets of Athens, accusing the Court of being implicated in the insurrection and the King of sympathising with the insurgents, and demanding a plebiscite to enable the nation to decide whether the dynasty can any longer be tolerated in Greece. This amazing document is an indication of the chaos to which recent unhappy events in Greece have reduced the country. At the conference Colonel Gonatas, the Prime Minister, is reported to have declared that it was his impression that the King personally had maintained absolute neutrality during the rebellion. In spite of this assurance officers on the active list can claim in a public manifesto to have "serious proofs" to the contrary, of which the Prime Minister is in ignorance. At an early stage of the rising an attempt was made in Athens to implicate Prince Nicholas of Greece, who was reported to be in communication from Belgrade with the insurgents. The straightforward denial which the Prince has sent to *The Times* will be found convincing enough by most people, and it should be possible for King George II. equally to clear himself or for the Greek Government to do it for him. It was in-

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evitable that the prestige of the dynasty should suffer as a result of the Revolutionary régime; if, therefore, the present Government is sincere in its desire to maintain the monarchy and to avoid the danger of a republic, it will do well to make the rehabilitation of the dynasty in the eyes of the people one of its first cares. That an anti-dynastic manifesto can be openly posted in the capital by the highest military and naval officers in defiance of the Government affords an indication of the measure of discipline and loyalty that may be expected if the head of the State should ever have to be selected from among the more prominent citizens.

The Turkish Republic.

Lacking the good sense that prompted the Greek Government to call a meeting of the "elder statesmen" to discuss the pros and cons of a republican régime, the Turkish authorities of Angora have allowed the vote of a sparsely attended Assembly to determine the status of Turkey. The actual procedure seems to have been that on the resignation of Fethi Bey the Popular Party failed to nominate a new Government and left the matter in the hands of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. The latter consented to act on condition that a republic was proclaimed and that the President, to be elected by the Assembly, should also be president of that body and should nominate the Prime Minister. A subservient Assembly at once ratified these demands practically without discussion, and Mustapha Kemal Pasha was chosen President. There can be little question that he is for the moment the only possible leader for the new Turkey, which has been created by his efforts. It is for the sake of that Turkey, however, that we could wish that he had shown more statesmanlike qualities in refraining from forcing upon the nation a measure of which the full significance cannot possibly be grasped by the people as a whole. If the republic is to be a success, it will need to have the genuine approval of the Turkish nation behind it. There are no signs that this stage has been reached, or that Mustapha Kemal Pasha has given a thought to any opinion other than his own and that of a number of delegates of the National Assembly elected to do his bidding.

An Interesting Experiment.

The constitutional status of the new Turkey is a matter for the Turks themselves. Onlookers from without may have their own views of what is suited or is not suited to the Turkish character, but in Great Britain no one will challenge the liberty of the Turks to adopt any form of government that they like. The main concern of the world outside is to see a Turkey well governed, at peace with itself and enjoying good relations with foreign countries. General Ismet Pasha, the new Prime Minister, made a declaration of policy to which no exception can be taken. It will be interesting to watch the measures adopted to give effect to it. That no immediate results are to be looked for is obvious, and in this connection patience cannot be too strongly urged upon foreigners in Turkey as well as on the Constantinople Turks. Conscious of their wider knowledge and greater experience the latter are apt to chafe under the crude efforts of Angora. They have little to gain by trying to force an issue at this stage. Angora, on the other hand, if it is concerned to bring Constantinople into line with its own views, will be well advised to proceed slowly with its attempts at conversion. So far it has shown itself more in favour of sledge-hammer methods, using the press as its chief weapon. One effect of these tactics is certain to be the lowering of Turkish prestige in the eyes of the Moslem world.

Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Colonel Christitch, Yugoslav Military Attaché in Bulgaria, is not only, happily, still alive, but is also, equally fortunately, a man of self-possession and sound common sense. He has been the victim of a dastardly attempt on his life in his house in Sofia; but his calm and dignified attitude affords an excellent example for the two countries of the way in which the incident can be settled. The seriousness of the affair cannot be overlooked, as it occurs at a critical point in Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations, and with the precedent of the Janina murders so recent, might have awkward consequences for Bulgaria. We can but hope that the Yugoslav Government will not repeat Signor Mussolini's mistake. Italy humiliated Greece and took from her fifty million lire; but it is safe to say that there are just as many *komitajis* in the Balkans to-day as when General Tellini and his party were murdered. The Bulgarian Government may be able to plead that the outrage in Sofia might conceivably have occurred in Belgrade or any other European capital; but it knows that such things ought not to happen, and that it must take some definite steps to prevent a recurrence. The main concern of the Yugoslav Government should be to see that effective measures to this end are adopted. Two theories regarding the outrage hold the field—that it was the work of Macedonians anxious to revenge themselves on Yugoslavia, or that the would-be assassins were Communists trying to embroil Yugoslavia and Bulgaria for their own ends. In either case the crime has its roots in the actual situation in the Balkans, which will never be cleared up satisfactorily until proper neighbourly relations exist between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria and the Macedonian question is no longer an open sore.

India at the Conference.

The Imperial Conference has done well to issue a prompt and full report of the discussions on the status of Indians in the British Empire, though we fear its very fulness may operate to prevent its careful study by busy politicians in India. To our mind, the most noteworthy feature is the progress which has been made in limiting the area of possible dissension, in defining the issues, and in devising machinery for their amicable adjustment. Only a few years ago the comparatively small number of Indians who were then interested in the question regarded the Dominions as a solid body of enemies, and the Colonial Office as the villain of the piece. In the interval, while Indian interest has increased, many difficulties and misunderstandings have been quietly cleared away. In the Dominions, there remain only the large question of South Africa, and the much smaller question of one province of Canada; in the dependencies the real trouble relates solely to Kenya; and the fact that feeling in India runs so strongly just now is our justification for appealing to all Indians to recognise the magnitude of the past achievement, and to rest their hopes for the future on continued effort along the lines which have already proved so fruitful.

Ex Africa Nil.

From Africa, contrary to the old tag, has come nothing new, for, while the Duke of Devonshire naturally, and in our opinion properly, was not prepared to re-open at once the decision reached in the summer regarding Kenya, General Smuts remained absolutely uncompromising in the matter of Natal. "We are up against a stone wall, and we cannot get over it" was apparently

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his last word. We agree that the wall is there, and that it looks exceedingly formidable, but skill and good will combined have been known to get over, or through, or round, obstacles of not less apparent magnitude, and what we look for in vain in the General's speech is evidence of the will to move forward into line with the other Dominions. Doubtless, he interprets correctly the present attitude of his people, and Indians who desire complete self-government would do well to remember that South Africa is a self-governing entity, with full power to enforce its views, but to our minds it is not less important that the leaders of South Africa should remember that the Imperial connection involves duties as well as rights, and we wish it were possible to point to any indication that, in regard to India, they realise this aspect of the situation.

The Kenya Question.

As to the position of Indians in Kenya, it is important to recognise that, while the British Government will not reopen the question at once, it has not followed the example of South Africa by entrenching itself behind an unsurmountable wall. The agreed statement read out by the Premier marks an important advance in machinery, in that it gives the Indian Government direct access to the Colonial Office, and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, who has made his mark in the Conference, evidently thinks that the machinery is serviceable, for in his last words he undertook to advise Indians to work it for all that it is worth. In this matter we commend his attitude to his countrymen. He rightly rests India's claims on the idea of *izzat*, that is, on the new-born conception of national dignity. Strikes, *hartals*, discourtesies to the King-Emperor's representatives, and all the other fashionable methods of agitation are essentially undignified, and do India practically unmitigated harm. Persistent effort by constitutional means can do only good, and the surest road to honour abroad is the maintenance of a dignified attitude at home.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Passing of Mr. Bonar Law.

Yesterday the remains of Mr. Bonar Law were rested within Westminster Abbey. His funeral was the occasion for the demonstration of national grief and admiration, for his claims to the final rites of public homage were incontestable.

Although history may find it difficult to place Mr. Bonar Law, this generation knew well his gallant worth. He worked quietly, loyally, and very steadfastly; fuss and self-advertisement were unknown to him. Without being, or attempting to be, a great man, he certainly was a good man, and the homage that has from all sides been paid to him is perfectly sincere. More than anyone, except, perhaps, Mr. Asquith, he was able to look at the War first of all from the human point of view, and it is mostly by remembering and relating his gentle but resolute humanity that this generation will pass on his fame. For even in this hustling and unscrupulous age the virtue of unruffable straightness still commands the quickest route to national affection.

Looking Inwards.

The pendulum has again swung from foreign to domestic issues, and we are now being invited to treat the forthcoming General Election as one over the Protection question alone. As if tired of the impossibility of doing anything in foreign affairs, the country is trying to turn its back on them and to set its own house in order. And the Premier has already sketched his policy of a tentative Protection, with, however, the very important proviso of no tax on food.

Looked at distantly, this apparent resolve to settle our affairs in disregard of the foreign situation is doomed to failure. Without a definite declaration of what attitude Great Britain intends to adopt towards the Russian market, for example, or other Continental markets, the whole policy of Protection is to some degree stultified. It is truer now than ever it was that home policy depends on foreign policy; you cannot, try as you will, put the cart before the horse. In the Empire at the moment there are not sufficient resources for the solution of half our national ills; foreign markets also must be re-established. But, looked at more nearly, the problem becomes distressing in its acuteness, and the knowledge and sight of our millions of unemployed must shiver the heart or steel the resolution of any statesman to immediate measures. Mr. Baldwin, a fallible but brave man, is for immediate measures.

The Coming Issue.

Easily the most prominent thing about the forthcoming election is the vagueness of the whole affair. Nobody, except the narrowest and most rabid, knows exactly where he stands. Principles for the most part are rapidly being deserted, and, under the new régime of enforced expediency, we are about to begin a series of experiments. The Premier himself admits that he does not know the details of his policy, and when he pleads such ignorance, it would be folly for less honest men to profess to know precisely their own opinions.

This proposal to try a policy of partial Protection cuts across all the old political lines, and has put all sorts of people into a nasty tangle. Each party is divided, and few people, other than journalists, profess to knowing how the election will go. An attempt, not very convincing, because too flattering to the Labour Party, has been started by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and taken up by other less wily persons, to represent the issue as one between Mr. Baldwin's policy and the policy of the Labour Party. Such representation is, I believe, false; neither the followers of the Premier nor those of the Socialist leader will all blindly follow their present guides at the election

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—material interests will have too great an influence.

It is all extraordinarily difficult for the ordinary man, who believes profoundly neither in Protection, nor in Free Trade, nor in the Capital Levy. Probably the best thing for him to do is to tread in the footsteps, full of hope, but equally prepared for disappointment, of the most ordinary man in the country, Mr. Baldwin.

Foreign Ma ters.

At the risk of being called politically minded, one must insist on the paramount importance of foreign affairs. Continental difficulties grow deeper daily, what time we look sorrowfully on or at best offer a word or two of very paternal advice. In our own inimitably futile way, for instance, we discountenance the separatists on the Rhine, as we discountenanced the revolutionaries in Greece, and, probably, with just about as much real effect on the situation. This pursuit of studied impotence has become almost a craze, and people here would wish rather for nothing than such a series of disregarded and disregardable efforts.

It is not childish to emphasise the fact that if we are not with France we must be against her, and this niggling policy of ours (which, by the way, we every month or so proclaim is the policy of the whole world) of trying to do up what France has undone merely places the ultimate settlement into the hands neither of the French nor of ourselves. If, without being courageous (or, as others think, silly) enough to oppose France, we keep on trying to block her, we shall just play into the hands of the Cosmopolitans.

Our last great gesture, by the way, the calling together of a Conference to include America, does not seem at the moment to have chances of any greater success than our previous efforts have had. We are told that America is with us, that Italy is with us, and, so the hardier ones assert, that even Belgium is with us; but really we are tired of such gup. If, even now, we went boldly in with France, we could, many Britons believe, check her more extreme acts, we could, for instance, assist in the separation of the various parts of the German Empire without making them separate States; but, as it is, we have no check on her at all.

An Imperial Pr-blem.

The question that was most to the fore with the Imperial Conference last week was that of the status of Indians within the Empire. In its essence it does not, of course, concern me here; but what was interesting was the strong attitude of General Smuts. It must have been a nasty shock to our dear Liberals and Labour people, to all our humanitarians and believers in the brotherhood of man, to find the General so resolute in his opposition to the wishes of the rest of the Conference. There is no gainsaying the logical impossibility of General Smuts's position. You may say if you like that when he talks about the League of Nations in such glowing terms it is because he does not know intimately what he is talking about, and that when he is so downright about the status of Indians in South Africa it is because he does know very closely what he is talking about; but most people appear to think that his utterances are merely the reflection of what the most influential people in South Africa think—and wealth always liked a close corporation at home and freedom abroad.

The Sun Worshippers.

In not such remote connection as might appear with this Imperial problem, I went last week to see a film called "The Sun Worshippers." It is a British production, the property of the United Theatres and Films (Limited), Australia. Apparently Australia is as dissatisfied as is Great Britain with the American monopoly of films, and the movement is now hot to get rid of so many films which are sent to our Colonies that depict the white man in a poor light. Particularly, the promoters of this movement insist on the bad effects which the worse kind of American film has on the Indian mind—sedition, infidelity, drunkenness, and all the rest of it are what they mean. Personally I think their complaint is perfectly justified, and hope that such films as "The Sun Worshippers," will be sent Eastwards in increasing numbers.

This film deals with the experiences of a party of American scientists, who set out last year for Wallal, in North-West Australia, to study the total eclipse of the sun. They proved, incidentally, the truth of Einstein's theory that rays of light are subject to the forces of gravitation. This was exceedingly interesting, although the film had some obvious mistakes in the matter of balance. There was, for instance, more about the habits of the aborigines whom the scientific party met than about their own work, all of which was informative enough and legitimate under the title, but, nevertheless, was, scientifically speaking, mere padding. However, how great an improvement it is on the ordinary "love" film can be seen by anybody who visits the Pavilion, Marble Arch, on November 19 and subsequent days.

From Bobbing to Shingling.

How our times do move! Breathlessly and fascinatedly (murmurs of indignation and superiority being patriotically subdued) we watched the girls of our time bobbing their hair, and, living but for the moment, submitted to the beauty of it all. But again we must revise our ideas of beauty, because, as we learned a day or two ago, the decree has now gone out that bobbing, as we all knew long ago, is out of fashion, and that "shingling" reigns in its stead. Shingling, I am told, means that you have your hair cropped short at the back and left long at the sides—no doubt (until a year or two's time) so very much more fascinating than bobbed hair.

It is all, I suppose, part of the modern passion for uniformity. And if our restless females wish first to look different from one another and end in all resembling one another, what can a poor man do but acquiesce? This desire for short hair is, after all, an ancient device, and the tears that are being sermonically shed over it issue from the well of ignorance. In short, one does not dare to take sides in the matter!

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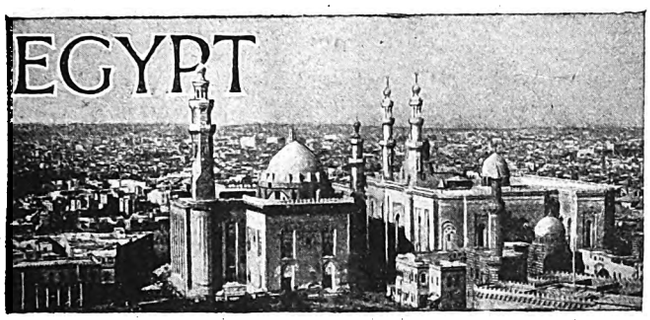
The Near and Middle East.

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, October 28.

The Political Lull.

Of political news there is practically none. The long-expected decree fixing the date of the secondary stage of the elections for the Chamber of Deputies has not yet appeared, and the Arabic Press is growing very restive at the delay. The Government's laconic statements on the subject, wherein it is declared that the decree will appear "shortly," have not done much towards allaying popular apprehensions that the elections are being deliberately postponed. These fears are presumably unfounded, but they are being extensively shown. The most generally accepted theory, to judge by the native newspapers, is that the High Commissioner is at the bottom of it all. Dismayed, it is supposed, by the prospect of a Zaghloulist majority, he, it is argued, is doing all he can to defer the evil day when Parliament, consisting of deputies pledged to secure a reversal of the policy enunciated last year, shall come into being. In any case, the elections cannot now take place before the end of the first week in December. Pending the actual date being fixed, all parties are, to some extent, resting on their oars, and official lists of candidates have not yet been issued.

The most important news of the moment is that Saad Pasha Zaghloul has been sufficiently restored to health to leave his room and to preside over a meeting of the Wafd executive. He has, however, been ordered a period of comparative quiet, and will probably not be back in his old fighting form for a week or two.

The Nationalist Party alone has shown much activity of late. As I pointed out last week, this party's propaganda is mostly carried on below the surface, and has lately been of an extremely dubious nature. These almost openly disloyal intrigues have this week resulted in the suspension of the party's organ, *Al Lewa*, a journal which has had a very troubled life, ever since its foundation by Mustapha Pasha Kamel. The *Lewa* has been temporarily eclipsed many times during the last few years, but has always come up smiling. This time, however, it will not be surprising if the paper's disappearance proves to be of a more permanent nature. The immediate cause of the suspension was an article dealing with the funeral of the late Prince Abdel Kader, the arrangements for which have been so bungled and so constantly changed that in the end it was a complete *hazooq*. Whose fault this was it is hard to say. The Nationalist Party, through the *Lewa*, declared that the Government had deliberately mismanaged the affair, so as to prevent any demonstration of sympathy for the family of the deceased Prince, and particularly for his father, the ex-Khedive. The Government, on the other hand, maintains that the family of the deceased Prince, or rather those members of it now present in Egypt, deliberately misled the Government regarding the date on which the body would arrive. Into the ins and outs of the affair it would be unprofitable to probe, but it is all interesting as a symptom of the intriguing which has been and still is going on. Another evidence of the workings of these fishers in troubled waters was the discovery, a few days before the funeral, of a large stock of photographs of the ex-Khedive, ready for sale in the streets on the day of the Prince's funeral. These photographs were confiscated by the police.

A Huge Embezzlement.

Another sensational discovery is connected with the railway administration. It appears that the department for issuing season tickets has not, hitherto, been so strictly controlled as it might have been. The official in charge has been almost completely on his own. Being a young man of expensive tastes, the handling of the large sums of money which the department receives, has been too strong a temptation. His *modus operandi*, apparently, has been, when a passenger applied for a season ticket for a year, to make out the season ticket accordingly, but to enter the transaction in his books as the sale of a ticket for only a month, or a quarter, and to pocket the difference in the price for the two periods. This seems to have gone on for a very long while, and it is stated that the sum missing amounts to £E50,000, though it would seem impossible that so large an amount could have been diverted without its being discovered. Eventually, the fraud was found out through a British business man, who had taken out a season ticket for one year, and had paid for it £E200, deciding, after the expiry of a couple of months, that he did not need the ticket. He therefore wrote to a friend in the railway administration, asking the latter to help in securing a refund in respect of the unexpired ten months. The friend, on making enquiries, was surprised to find that the records showed that a ticket for one

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.**

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month only had been issued, the price being £E20. Investigations were begun; the season-ticket clerk began to scent danger, and absented himself from his work. This led to a thorough enquiry, when the whole business came to light. The official concerned has disappeared, and up to the present the police have not been able to discover his whereabouts.

Hours of Officials.

Government officials have recently been unpleasantly surprised by the resurrection of the proposal, originally made two or three years ago by the Cadre Commission, and which everybody had thought to be decently interred, that Government offices should be open in the afternoons, on at least three days a week. At the moment the idea cannot be carried out, as the offices, for the most part, are not equipped with the necessary lighting for work on winter afternoons, and it is stated that it will cost £E150,000 to carry out the work needed. It seems probable, however, that the Government will decide in favour of the proposal, thus effecting a drastic revolution in the life of the average Government official, to whom the afternoon siesta is the most important part of the day.

A Cloudburst.

The Eastern Delta was visited last Sunday by a storm of unusual violence. At Ismailia a hurricane raged for fifty minutes, blowing down or uprooting trees, taking the roofs off houses, and interrupting telephone and telegraph communications for hours, besides putting the local lighting service out of action till a late hour in the evening. In the native quarter many houses were destroyed, either by the gale or by the cloudburst which followed, and which flooded all the lower parts of the town. The storm is stated to have been the most severe in living memory.

Jerusalem, October 19.

The "Arab Agency."

Never before have Arab and Jew shown themselves so united as they have done in expressing their emphatic disapproval of the last attempt of the Palestine Government—or the Colonial Office—to solve the present condition of Arab discontent in Palestine. The suggested "Arab Agency," both before and after its formal proposition last Thursday, the 11th, was wholesalely condemned by moderates and extremists both among Jews and Arabs. Their reasons are, as might be expected, diametrically opposite, but equally unhesitating: the Jews have shown great umbrage at the proposal, because it implies the whittling down of the "Jewish Agency" into a local Palestinian-Jewish advisory committee instead of being, as the Jews regard it, the representative of the whole eleven or fifteen millions of the Jewish people in the world (the number fluctuates between these extremes according to the temperature of the argument) in their dealings with the League of Nations' nominee at present administering the Jewish National Home—which happens to be the British Government; the Arabs, on the other hand, formally base their objection on the fact that if they consent to the setting up of an Arab Agency to represent Arab interests in Palestine, they *ipso facto* declare their recognition of Jewish Agency (*scil.* Zionist) interests in the country.

At the moment of writing the project has not been finally shelved. The Arab representatives who were invited to Government House to hear the formal statement promised to submit their detailed decision in writing in the course of a few days, and the High Commissioner expressed a hope that the various Arab bodies and interested individuals would submit their views to him. If, by this, he suggested that certain more moderately minded Arabs might be found who were more favourable to the Agency scheme, it is highly improbable that he will get much satisfaction, since the immediate effect of the official pronouncement has been the uniting of the new-born "National Party" (which was—comparatively—moderate) with the body whose opinions have been voiced—the Christian-Moslem Association, the Arab Congress Executive and the Arab Delegation. There has been a long-standing rivalry between two of the leading Palestinian families, the Husseinis and the Nashashibis; the former took the leading part in the extremist, anti-Zionist movement, while the latter are understood to have been the leading spirits of the new National Party. Now it is understood that the two families have consented to sink their differences and combine forces in defence of Arab interests. And this seems to be the one result of the Government's well-meant attempt.

The Government's Motives.

There is, however, a rooted idea in many local quarters which suspects that the Agency "concession" was, in the last instance, offered with a clear expectation that it would be rejected. It is asserted, on I don't know what authority, that the offer was made as early as July by the Colonial Office to the Arab Delegation while it was still in London, and rejected as soon as offered. The fact that the offer has been persisted in and proffered publicly to the Palestine Arabs is, so the theory goes, purely to show to the world at large that Great Britain is striving hard to carry out the terms of the Mandate and to hold out scrupulous equality of treatment to Jew and Arab, but that its

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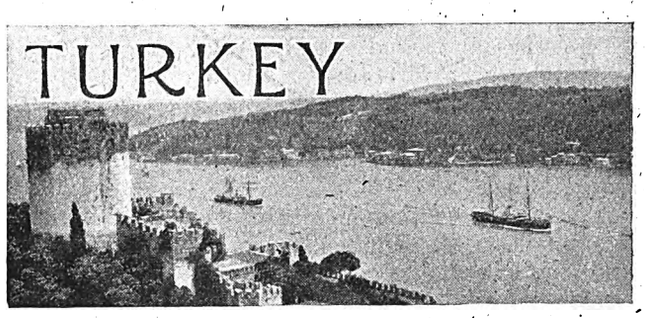
well-meaning efforts are baulked at every turn by the unreasoning opposition of the Arab leaders, who refuse to co-operate in the slightest degree with the British Administration. The alternative theory is that the offer was intended to estrange sympathy from the perpetual dissentients, as represented by the Arab Congress Executive, and strengthen the hands of the recently created National Party, and —for lack of other Arab leaders disposed to co-operate with the British Administration—recognise the National Party leaders as the "Arab Agency." It is alleged in proof of this hypothesis that the supposed prime mover of the National Party, Ragheb Bey en-Nashashibi, actually at one stage expressed his adherence to the Arab Agency proposal. Seldom has a gift-horse been so looked in the mouth.

Another aspect of the proposed offer is being very much discussed. In the discussion between the High Commissioner and the Arab notables which followed the Agency offer, the spokesman of the Arabs, Musa Kazem Pasha, urged against the idea of an Arab Agency, that no such thing was provided for under the terms of the Mandate, whereas the "Jewish Agency" figured prominently in the Mandate. The High Commissioner thereupon gave the assurance that if such an Agency proved acceptable to the Arabs of Palestine, the British Government would approach the League of Nations and desire them to ratify the necessary modifications in the terms of the Mandate. Musa Kazem Pasha was alert enough to make the obvious retort that if such were the case His Excellency should not have so definitely and pointedly laid it down in the prelude to the new offer that the Palestine Mandate was now such a firmly fixed, internationally approved, and absolutely final and unchangeable document that no variation was conceivable. If it were possible to change it to the extent of introducing so new and unanticipated a feature as the Arab Agency, there was no logical reason whatever why, in the interests of the people of Palestine, a further change should not be made expunging the Balfour Declaration and conceding the claims of the Arabs for representative self-government. The Jews, too, both here and, so one gathers, in London Zionist headquarters, have not been slow in spying out this very unpleasing flaw in the reliability of League of Nations guarantees. Not only, so they complain, does this last offer to the Arabs lower the dignity of the Jewish Agency, but it makes of the Palestine Mandate and the whole League of Nations a sorry farce.

The Hejaz and Palestine.

Some time ago mention was made in these columns of statements uttered by a certain Sheikh Abbas el Malaki, and uttered—so it was made to appear—in the name of Hussein, King of the Hejaz. According to these statements the King of the Hejaz pressed upon the Palestinian Arabs the fact that he was exercising a watchful, fatherly care on behalf of their interests, and would not accept any agreement with Great Britain which did not ensure for the Palestinian Arabs a free self-government. We are now officially informed by King Hussein that the representative was sent to Palestine purely for the purpose of supervising the delivery of the funds collected at Mecca for the maintenance and restoration of the Mosque el Aksa, and that any statements he may have made on political matters were made on his own responsibility.

TURKEY



Constantinople, October 23.

The Obscure Situation.

It is extremely difficult, owing to the unreliability of the various news services, to find out what is actually happening in this country. There are no means of discovering either the condition of the country or the feelings of the people. Everybody has his opinions, but *quot homines*. . . . One thing is certain: Constantinople disbelieves much of what Angora says. At the moment there is keen discussion on the project for the modification of the Organic Law, on the future designation of the Turkish State, and on the subject of the attributions of the President, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet, and the Assembly.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald.

Constantinople has recently been honoured with a visit from Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., who told the journalists that he had taken advantage of the parliamentary recess to make his acquaintance with this part of the world. Apart from the usual necessary visits of ceremony and hospitality between him and the British and Turkish authorities, he was regarded by the Turkish representatives of labour as their particular property and entertained by them. He received a very friendly reception from the Turkish Press, and he gave both the Press representatives and those of labour some very sound advice, namely, to beware of political concession hunters and financial groups and to work together to achieve such a degree of stability in Turkey that their country would attract the investor of the right kind and draw his money and the technical experience behind it into Turkey for Turkey's benefit and his own.

Exchange of Populations.

The exchange of populations between Greece and Turkey has begun, and the first batch of Moslems from Mitylene has been disembarked at Aivalik on the opposite coast under the auspices of a very efficient and experienced commission from the American Near East Relief Organisation. The move was apparently made with the minimum of discomfort and loss for the unfor-

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tunate objects, and if they are planted in the area round Aivalik they will be very fortunate, for it closely resembles their native island and is a rich olive-growing country.

A party of Christians from the Pontus area arrived in Constantinople about a fortnight ago ahead of the programme, and have been languishing in appalling conditions on an old steamer up the Golden Horn all this time. I believe arrangements have at last been made to ship them off to Greece

These movements constitute only a very small beginning of the whole exchange, and it is probable that the process will be going on for years.

Local News.

The local situation in Constantinople is more or less unchanged. Public order is well preserved and the city is perfectly quiet. The Angora Press is openly inciting the authorities—or the hooligan element—to take reprisals upon the Constantinople Greeks for real or pretended persecutions of the Moslems in Thrace and Macedonia by the Greek Government. It is sincerely to be hoped that the responsible authorities, both here and in Angora, will have the courage of their convictions, which they have until now expressed, and sternly repress any attempt at violence and disorder whatsoever. What these Angora hotheads will not understand is that by fomenting disorder in Turkey they are playing right into the hands of some of Turkey's foreign enemies, and doing the country the greatest possible disservice.

The British institutions in the town are showing numerous signs of healthy life. The excellent High School for Girls has greatly distinguished itself in the last examinations of the College of Preceptors. In the Honours Division of the Junior Grade they have secured the third place in all England and the schools abroad, and in the Preliminary Grade both the first and second places. In the examination of the Royal Drawing Society they have also been brilliantly successful.

The Civilian Golf Club, which was projected before the Allied evacuation, has now become an accomplished fact and the course has been placed under the management of an Anglo-American Committee of prominent residents. Green and social committees have been formed and an omnibus service from the centre of the city to the links has been organised and is well patronised. Not only golf, but also Association football has organised its adherents. A British A.F.C. has been formed, and two teams are in practice; they have played against Robert College and against a team from one of the British ships in the harbour. Rumour has it also that the residential suburb of Moda, on the Asiatic side, which contains a large colony of old-established British residents, is preparing to gird up its loins and compete on the Soccer field with its European neighbours. In so doing they would be reviving an old tradition.

All these ventures must be wished a great success, and the hope expressed that they will get a good list of fixtures with local teams, of which there are a number who play quite well and are desperately keen to play better. Such a rivalry in sport would do an incalculable amount of good.

It is reported from Moscow that the negotiations between Roumania and the Soviet Government concerning shipping in the Dniester are approaching a successful conclusion.

EDUCATIONAL.

TO PARENTS requiring a Home Education for their children. Lady, who already has niece living with her, wishes other children to share lessons and games. P.N.E U. system. Healthy village in good district. References required. For full particulars apply, MISS EARL Norton-sub-Hamdon, Somerset.

A VISIT TO MECCA.

On October 25, at the Royal United Service Institution, the Central Asian Society listened to an illustrated lecture by Lord Headley upon his recent visit to Mecca. Lord Headley explained that, although he intended, out of his admiration for the Prophet, to make the pilgrimage in 1914, circumstances were favourable only this year. He left England in June, and returned in September. When he landed in Egypt he was made to realise, what before he only theoretically knew—the wonderful brotherhood of Islam; the fact that he was British did not count at all in the eyes of the Egyptian Moslems, all classes of whom combined to give him a great reception wherever he went.

Leaving Egypt, he embarked at Suez on the Mansourah, whose little Greek skipper excelled in wrongly forecasting the weather, and luckily for the lecturer the heat was by no means unbearable. He described the antics of the divers off Yenbo, where, he thought, the Near East ended and the Middle East began. At Jeddah he was welcomed both by the British Consul and by the representative of King Hussein, who had sent for Lord Headley a motor-car to take him to Mecca. Of Jeddah, Lord Headley did not think highly; it was very hot and unhealthy. Having arrived at Mecca, he was enchanted with the place, and the only discomfort he endured was caused by the obligatory wearing of the *ihram*, which consists of two loose sheets, one for the loins and the other for the shoulders. The lecturer explained that Mohammedans use the *ihram* not only to make the pilgrimage, but also like to be buried in it.

At Mecca he was lodged in the second most beautiful house of the city, overlooking the Kaaba. He described fully the Kaaba, the Saiee, the Holy Carpet (a portion of which, a present to him from King Hussein, he showed to his audience), the sermons from Arafat, the ceremony of "stoning the devil" at Mina, and so on. Although the heat was intense at Mecca, the inhabitants were healthy, and there was a complete absence of vermin. Throughout the performance of his religious duties, Lord Headley was continually meeting with little acts of kindness from King Hussein, to the fineness of whose nature he paid full tribute.

In conclusion, Lord Headley emphatically disclaimed any political motive in visiting Mecca; his promptings were purely religious and moral. But he did think that his visit had had a beneficial result on the relations between the Christian and Moslem subjects of the British Empire, and he read letters which he had received to that effect. He appealed warmly for an application in this country for a spirit of the brotherhood of man.

The value of the lecture was enormously enhanced by some beautiful lantern slides, illustrating practically every thing and everybody mentioned in the lecture, including the lecturer himself, complete in *tarboush* and in *ihram*! Some of the views of Mecca, including the Kaaba, the Ali gate, the Mina pillars, and so forth, were superb.

Subsequently, Mr. F. H. Skrine said that, owing to his knowledge of an Indian Moslem, who made the pilgrimage with Sir Richard Burton, he was able to state that, contrary to popular belief, Sir Richard's identity was known very soon after he started the pilgrimage, and that the dangers of the visit were greatly exaggerated. Dr. O'Leary mentioned that possibly a better friend to Great Britain might be found in Ibn Saud than in King Hussein, upon the future relations between whom the lecturer had been unable to guess.

PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND.

A pilgrimage from London to the Holy Land, under the leadership of Cardinal Bourne, Archbishop of Westminster, which will last from February 19 to April 1, 1924, has been organised by the Catholic Association. Co-operation has been arranged with the Franciscan Fathers, the custodians of the Holy Places, in whose pilgrimage houses those taking part will stay. A badge, consisting of a Jerusalem Cross in enamel, will be supplied to each pilgrim, and these crosses will be blessed at a ceremony to be held in Westminster Cathdral on the eve of the departure from London. To those joining in the pilgrimage the Pope grants a special blessing, and His Holiness has also granted a dispensation from fasting and abstinence to the pilgrims during their pilgrimage.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Near and Middle East Association will be held on Friday, November 16, at half past eight o'clock, at 31, Wilton Place, S.W.1, by kind permission of Lady Grogan. Mrs. Frederick Hasluck, who has just returned from a two years' stay in the Balkans, will speak; and Dr. Pellizzi will give an outline of the present attitude of Italy towards Balkan problems.

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THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY.

A Council Meeting of the Arab Horse Society was held on October 24, at the Grosvenor Hotel, London, Lt.-Col. P. D. Stewart, D.S.O. (president) being in the chair. There were also present:—Major G. H. Barker, Messrs. E. R. Calthrop, H. V. Musgrave Clark, L. Edmunds, S. G. Hough, E. Hurtley, C. W. Laird, Brig.-Gen. F. F. Lance, Mr. G. H. Ruxton, Capt. the Hon. George Savile, Mr. R. S. Summerhays, Brig-Gen. C. Templar, C.M.G., C.I.E., Major C. B. Toms, O.B.E., and the Secretary, the Rev. D. B. Montefiore.

The Council deplored the loss of one of their members of Council, the late Mr. Robert Alexander, Slateford, Midlothian, whose death occurred since the last meeting; and passed a vote of condolence and sympathy with his relatives, which the secretary was instructed to convey to his son.

Entries were received for Vol. III. of the Stud Book. Arrangements were made for the six Arab and Arab-bred Classes to be held at the London Show on March 7 and 8, 1924.

The secretary presented a letter from Mr. Skidmore Ashby, acting on behalf of the Shebbertown Race Club, with regard to Arab Races to be held next year.

The following fourteen new members were elected:—Allen, Philip R., East Walpole, Mass., U.S.A.; Anderson, Lt.-Col. W. H., Deputy Director of Remounts, Q.M.G.'s Branch, Army Headquarters, Simla, India; Ashby, Skidmore, Rixlade, Abbotsham, N. Devon; Clive, Lt.-Col. Harry, Willoughbridge, Market Drayton, Salop; Darwood, J. W., 16, Holland Park, London, W.; Dunsmore, Buchanan, Comely Bank, Perth, Scotland; Gant, Mrs. E., 13, Little Stanhope Street, Park Lane, London; Gonne, Major C. Melvill, Hightown Farm, Ringwood, Hants; Jones, G. H., Blandford, Dorset; Keighley, Col. Vernon (19th Lancers), Cavalry Club, London, S.W.; Meiring, Frank, Waterside, Box 19, Burghersdorp, Cape Province, S. Africa; Smith, W. E., Great West Hatch, Chigwell; Straker, Mrs. John C., Stagshaw House, Corbridge, Northumberland; Tyrwhitt-Drake, Hugh G., Cobtree Manor, Maidstone.

The Council then adjourned until their next meeting, on Wednesday, January 23, 1924, at 2.45 p.m., at the Grosvenor Hotel, London.

LECTURES ON EGYPT.

A series of lectures on Egypt, to be delivered in the Central Small Hall, Westminster, has been arranged by the Egypt Exploration Society for the coming winter. The first lecture was on November 5, on "Wreaths and Garlands of Ancient Egypt," by Professor P. E. Newberry. The second, on December 11, at 8.30, by Sir Arthur Evans, on his recent excavations in Crete, will be entitled "The Ancient Relations of Crete to the Nile Valley." For further details and for tickets for the series application should be made to the Secretary, Egypt Exploration Society, 13, Tavistock Square, W.C.1.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Sir Percy Loraine, the British Minister, has returned to Teheran from Mohamerah.

The death occurred recently in Belgrade of M. Stoyan Protitch, who was Prime Minister of Yugoslavia from December, 1918, to August, 1919, and from February to April, 1920.

Two hundred Russian refugees from Constantinople, who had been in Cherbourg for a week waiting for a steamer to take them to New York, have been informed that, as the quota allowed for Russian emigrants has been reached, they cannot emigrate before June, 1924. Arrangements are being made for their return to Constantinople.

The India Office announces that Sir Chimanlal Harilal Setalvad has found it necessary, for private and domestic reasons, to ask for permission to resign his appointment as a member of the Royal Commission on the Superior Civil Services in India. The King has approved the appointment of Mr. Narayan Madhav Samarth to be a member of the Royal Commission in Sir Chimanlal's place.

To celebrate the fifth anniversary of the surrender of the Turks in 1918 a dinner was held at the Hotel Cecil on October 31. Field-Marshal Viscount Allenby was in the chair, and among those present were:—Lieut.-Generals Sir Walter Campbell, Quartermaster-General to the Forces, and Sir Edward Bulfin; Major-Generals Sir John Adye, Sir Harry Hodgson, Sir A. Money, Sir Louis Bols, Sir R. H. Luce, and Sir P. C. Palin; Rear-Admiral M. FitzMaurice; Brigadier-Generals Sir G. Macauley, F. Gascoigne, and G. V. Clarke; Colonels and Lieut.-Colonels B. T. Buckley, A. P. Warell, R. H. Andrew, A. C. Robinson, W. Wordie, Norman Kennedy, J. S. Matthew, A. H. Tubby, C. H. Harbord, B. H. Waters Taylor, H. E. R. James, and H. Pirie Gordon; Sir Samuel Shead, and Captain Raymond Savage, who organised the dinner.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

FROM FAO TO KUT.

"OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE WAR.—MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN.—Vol. I." Compiled at the request of the Government of India, under the direction of the Historical Section of the Committee of Imperial Defence, by Brig.-Gen. F. J. Moberly, C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., P.S.C. (H.M. Stationery Office. 15s. net.)

It was with a sigh of relief that the reviewer found a map of the Middle East as a frontispiece to General Moberly's Official History of the Mesopotamia Campaign, and seven large scale maps in colour of the battlefields in a pocket at the end. These should be found in every military history, for without handy plans and full appendices the story of a battle is impossible to follow. Often, alas, they are conspicuous by their absence, but in the work under review the "make-up" is as good as the material, and both are excellent.

Perhaps the first few chapters will daunt the casual reader. A geographical and historical survey of the country, a description of the pre-war Turkish army, and the Kitchener reforms in India, are all well done (the latter especially is a brilliant résumé), but these details of past days do not quicken the pulse like the later chapters. Any one who wants to cut the cackle "and come to the hosses" can skip the first 98 pages (although he will have missed much which has never been better said) and begin with the capture of Fao on November 6, 1914.

After landing at Sanniya to protect the Anglo-Persian Oil Company's works near the mouth of the Shatt el Arab, we follow the Indian Expeditionary Force to Basrah and thence up the Tigris to Kurna, where 1,000 Turks were captured on December 9, 1914. Kurna, a squalid village at the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates, is the supposed site of Adam and Eve's adventures: a disgusted British soldier was heard to remark that it would require no angel with a flaming sword to drive *him* out of the Garden of Eden!

After the victory of Kurna there was a lull in the operations until the dramatic battle of Shaiba in the spring of 1915. On the evening of April 14 the bazaars of Basrah were alive with rumours. The British were to be driven into the sea. The green flag of the Prophet had triumphed. Turkish and Arabian forces were at the gates of Basrah.

Rumour lied, yet it was a fact that on that day our hold on Mesopotamia hung by a very slender thread.

At four o'clock on the afternoon of April 14 our troops, after having spent 36 hours up to their knees in water and in terrible heat, fighting continuously, seemed unable to dislodge the enemy. Our situation was most precarious, for we were 5,000 against 7,000 Turkish regulars, while 18,000 Arab horsemen prowled, like the hosts of Midian, on the flanks of the battle, ready to plunder and destroy. Preparations had been made for a retirement, when suddenly, inexplicably, the God of Battles intervened: the tide turned in our favour: the morale of the Turks broke: their guns ceased fire: our troops rushed the front-line trenches, and before an hour had passed the long ordeal was over

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and the battle won. As darkness gathered, a horde of fugitives streamed away to the north-west in wild confusion, harassed and robbed by the treacherous Arabs, nor did they stop running for three days. The commander of the enemy forces, Suleiman Askari, after the day was lost, assembled his officers, and denouncing the faithlessness of the Arabs, shot himself rather than live to see the ruin of his army.

The next phase of the operations, known as "Townshend's regatta," consisted in driving the Turks up the Tigris from near Kurna to the north of Amara. In May the Tigris is flooded, and in order to force the Turks from their positions, a bold and novel plan of attack was carried into effect. A large number of river craft having been impressed into Townshend's force, and the troops having been trained in their use, the enemy were attacked before dawn on May 31, by infantry moving on water instead of on the ground, where the Turks had expected to fight. They were completely taken by surprise and retired in disorder.

They were followed relentlessly and with the utmost energy. Amara was entered on May 3, and such was the panic of the Turks that the boat crews of our river force, amounting to only 41 British ranks, put to flight over 2,000 of the enemy, and captured 850 soldiers fully armed. It is, indeed, one of the most remarkable pursuits in history.

But although "Townshend's regatta" was a bold plan, brilliantly executed, the risks run were as nothing compared with those of the first battle of Kut. The Turkish position defending Kut was astride the Tigris, about seven miles down stream, and after several months of preparation was a very strong one. The trenches were very well constructed, with a thorough attention to detail, and were protected by formidable barbed wire entanglements, military pits, and land mines. But there was one defect in the Turkish position instantly perceived by General Townshend, which won him the battle. The bridge of boats connecting the two parts of the Turkish forces was five miles behind the main position, so that although the two parts of the force were only separated by the Tigris, they were virtually ten miles distant from each other. It is extraordinary that the German advisers of Nur-ud-din Pasha (the Turkish Commander-in-Chief) did not detect this glaring error.

General Townshend had about 5,000 men with which to attack 7,000 in a strongly entrenched position. In order to follow the Napoleonic maxim of developing great strength at the vital point, he had perforce to neglect the right bank of the Tigris, and almost to denude it of troops. At a critical stage of the battle some two hundred men only faced five thousand Turks on the right bank, but Nur-ud-din Pasha was so completely "bluffed" that he never attacked at this point. Had he done so he would have won the day.

Roughly, the plan of battle was to execute a turning attack on the enemy's left flank and rear, while holding him with a frontal attack, so that the main Turkish position should be caught as between the jaws of a vice.

Swiftly and silently, at dusk on September 27, General Delamain (commanding the turning attack) transferred his force from the right bank of the Tigris (where it was ostentatiously camped, to make the Turks think that that was the dangerous side of the river for them), and under cover of night moved across the front of the Turkish trenches, to the position of assembly known as Clery's post.

At dawn on September 28 the attack opened. By 10 a.m. the Turkish left was captured. By noon, General Delamain was marching southward to shut in the main position between himself and General Fry, commanding the frontal attack.

But the Turk, as Townshend afterwards said, "has strong knees," and a terrific counter-attack developed against Delamain's force during the afternoon, at a time when the British and Indian troops were utterly exhausted, having marched and fought for 18 hours with no rest and little water.

Night fell before victory was complete, and in the darkness the Turkish troops showed considerable skill in getting away; nevertheless, the morning light revealed the fact that the operations had been very successful. The Turks lost 4,000 men, 14 guns, and a considerable quantity of stores and ammunition in Kut, while the losses on the British side were 1,233, of whom only 94 were killed, chiefly in the first attack.

The book concludes with General Nixon's reorganisation, and the appendices include extracts from the diary of a German political agent, and the summary of a Turkish staff officer's pamphlet entitled "Our mistakes in Mesopotamia."

Attractive in style, interesting in its full presentment of policy, and absolutely authoritative in its descriptions of some of the most dramatic and clear-cut battles that have occurred in any theatre of war, this is a book to be recommended to civilians as well as to serious students of military history. We shall await with interest the next volume dealing with Ctesiphon, Kut, and Baghdad.

F. Y.-B.

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Ship "Macquarie" (Cover picture), J. Spurling.

The "Blue Peter" is published monthly at its Offices, 12, St. Mary Axe, E.C. 3.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Islam at the Cross Roads." By De Lacy O'Leary, D.D. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 6s. 6d. net.)

"Bulletin of the School of Oriental Studies, London Institution." (Luzac and Co. 6s.)

"Kings of Arabia: The Rise and Set of the Turkish Sovranty in the Arabian Peninsula." By Harold F. Jacob, C.S.I. With 42 illustrations from photographs. (London: Mills and Boon. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Origin of Christian Church Art: New Facts and Principles of Research." By Josef S. Rzygowski. Translated by O. M. Dalton, M.A., and H. J. Braunholtz, M.A. (Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 42s. net.)

"Reminiscences." By Rev. A. H. Sayce, D.Litt., LL.D., D.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 18s. net.)

"The Pageant of Greece." Edited by R. W. Livingstone. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 6s. 6d. net.)

"A History of Indian Political Theories." By U. Ghoshal, M.A., Ph.D. (London: Oxford University Press. 11s. 6d. net.)

"Survey of the Fauna of Iraq: Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, etc." Made by members of the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force "D," 1915-1919. (London: Dulau and Co., Ltd. 10s. net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 8 (New Style).
October 26 (Old Style).
Rabia 28, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Cheshvan 29, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Aga Khan left London last Friday for Paris.

Sir Basil Zaharoff left London last week for Paris.

Prince Andrew of Greece left London on November 4 for the Continent.

Queen Olga of Greece is visiting Princess Marie (Mme. Ioannides) at 7, Chester Terrace.

Lady (Alice) Lowther has sailed for Bombay in the P. and O. s. Kashmir on a short visit.

Lord and Lady Henry Seymour are leaving London next month for a protracted tour in India.

M. and Mme. Venizelos, who arrived in London on November 4 from Paris, are staying at the Ritz Hotel.

The Prince of Wales received his Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda at St. James's Palace on November 3.

Mme. Stancioff, wife of the Bulgarian Minister, will arrive at 51, Queen's Gate in a week's time from the Continent.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P., the Leader of the Opposition, returned to London on October 30 from his holiday tour in in the Near East.

The Maharaja of Alwar will leave the Hdye Park Hotel, according to present arrangements, in a week's time for India.

Lord Inchcape, accompanied by Lady Inchcape and the Hon. Elsie Mackay have arrived at 4, Seymour Place from Paris.

Owing to indifferent health Sir Robert Gardiner has been ordered to take a complete rest on the Continent, and will be away from England for several months.

Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Minister at Washington, who arrived in this country from America last week, left London on November 5 for Paris, on his way to Bucharest.

Field-Marshal Viscount and Viscountess Allenby, Colonel and Lady Helena Gibbs, and Major-General Sir Neville Howse, V.C., left London last Thursday for Marseilles on their way to the East.

Passages have been booked on the P. and O. s. Dongola for Bombay by Sir P. D. Pattani and his A.D.C., and Mr. J. L. Rieu, C.S.I. They will leave Marseilles on November 23.

A marriage has been arranged, and will take place shortly, between Air Commodore A. E. Borton, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., A.F.C., younger son of Lieut.-Colonel A. C. Borton, J.P., D.L., of Chenevey, Kent, and Muriel Agnes Slater, daughter of the late Rev. Canon H. B. Streatfeild, M.A.

Colonel Luard, before returning to India, gave a lecture on November 6 in the Lecture Theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum on the Bagh Cave Temples. This lecture was given under the auspices of the Royal College of Art.

Lieut.-Colonel the Right Hon. Leslie Wilson was received in audience by His Majesty at Buckingham Palace on October 31, and kissed hands upon his appointment as Governor of Bombay, when the King conferred upon him the honour of Knighthood and invested him with the Insignia of a Knight Grand Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire.

OBITUARY.

MR. C. W. DAWSON.

We regret to have to record the death, which occurred very suddenly on November 1, of Mr. Charles Williamson Dawson, Chairman of Messrs. Allen Brothers and Co., Ltd., of 14, Devonshire Square, London. Mr. Dawson, who was in his seventieth year, completed a fifty years' connection with the firm in 1919, when he withdrew from an active business life. During that long period he had paid many visits to India, his first acquaintance with the route dating back to caravan days, before the Suez Canal was built. With a kindly disposition, Mr. Dawson combined a shrewd, clear-sighted mind, and apart from those closely associated with him in business a large circle of friends will miss him. The funeral took place on November 6 at Hither Green Cemetery.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1923.

BRITAIN AND CYPRUS.

It is unfortunate that the full text of the reply of the Colonial Office to the last representations of the Greek Cypriots on the subject of the union of Cyprus with Greece should not have been available until it was issued by the local Press Bureau of Limasol. The British Government was understood to have stated that it regarded the question of union as closed; but it is only now that we are able to examine the reasoned presentation of the British case. In a controversy of this nature, in which, for the main part, sentiment matches itself against hard facts and higher politics, it is most desirable that the public in both countries should be acquainted with the arguments advanced on either side, and for this reason the early publication of correspondence on the subject is desirable. The reply of the Secretary of State for the Colonies does not attempt to go beyond the points raised in the Greek memorial; but these are dealt with *seriatim*, and, as far as can be judged from the final letter of the Greek delegate, the Government's presentation of its facts left little room for any definite challenge. It is common ground that Great Britain has been inclined to neglect Cyprus in the past; in other words, the awakened conscience of the people both of this country and of Cyprus in looking back realises that according to present-day standards a more consistent policy for the material development of the island might have been adopted. To admit this, however, entails no endorsement of the language of the advocates of union with Greece. Even in the last pamphlet issued on the subject it is stated over the signature of Dr. Lanitis that "Cyprus groans under a Government which is not hers, and under an administration which takes little or no account of the people's will, neglected and forgotten," and the latest memorial speaks of "the awful and hopeless condition of the public affairs, the financial distress of the people and the maladministration of the island." No evidence is forthcoming in support of these statements, unless we regard as such a reference to "two deportations . . . of one of the leading publicists and of a most philanthropic physician and good author, whose polite manners were appreciated in the Legislative Council as well as in London." The British reply does not deal with these deportations; but inasmuch as they are cited as "non-liberal acts such as have never been adopted during forty-five years of British rule," we must conclude that even the medico-author with polite manners committed a definite breach of the law and that the grievance is that his general urbanity failed to defeat the ends of justice. Against the Greek picture must be set the British version, which is as follows:—"His Grace has carefully perused the recent reports on the island, and he sees no evidence of any of these evils, nor does the Assembly or yourself furnish any proof of their existence. On the contrary his Grace is convinced that the island enjoys good government and a considerable measure of prosperity, and that the slight stringency, following the exceptional prosperity of past war (? post-War) years, from which Cyprus is suffering, is not to be compared with the difficulties which have been experienced in most of the Allied countries." In any case it would be thought that the troubled state of affairs in Greece and the uncertain outlook would have deterred any Greek community outside the kingdom from challenging comparison between the conditions obtaining in Cyprus under British administration and those which, it has to be inferred, they would wish to see reproduced in the island.

Agitation for union with Greece has become such a settled policy with a certain section of the Greek community of Cyprus that it is unable to appreciate the weakness of its case. In the first place the island has no closer link with the Greek kingdom than has Alexandria; the movement for union has never received more than perfunctory support from Greece, and notably failed to obtain the backing of M. Venizelos. The reason for this lack of enthusiasm on the part of the mainland Greeks may, perhaps, be found in the knowledge that the benefits to be derived by them from union are far to seek, however great might be the personal advantages accruing to those Cypriots who now lead the agitation, and who would naturally become the first office-holders under the changed régime. With Greece strongly established in Asia Minor the inclusion of Cyprus in the Hellenic kingdom might not have presented any special anomaly. Much, however, has happened since Smyrna was for a period brought under Greek jurisdiction, and it suggests a profound ignorance of world affairs on the part of the Cypriot "unionists" that they can at the present moment see no insuperable obstacle in the proposal that a considerable Turkish community should be deliberately handed over by Great Britain to Greek rule. It is possible that Greek administration of Cyprus would be without reproach and blot, but it requires little intelligence to understand how the Turks in the island and in Turkey would regard the prospect of the transfer and what its effect would be on the situation in the Near East. To all such considerations the "unionists" shut their eyes and endeavour to bolster up a weak case by endeavouring to prove that tolerable conditions of life are impossible under British rule, and are to be enjoyed only within the Greek kingdom. No community so entirely devoid of the sense of humour is likely to be endowed with the spirit of tolerance to the extent required for jurisdiction over others of a different race. A further weakness in the movement for political union is the close identification with it of the Orthodox Church on the island. An agitation on any political point can invariably rely on the support of all the high Church authorities, however mistaken or intemperate it may be. The effect of this on any impartial observer is to reveal the Greek community as lacking any moderating influence whatsoever, and to strengthen the conviction that such a people must be protected from themselves. In the opinion of many the Greek peasantry in the island would be among the first to suffer from the proposed union, owing to the indifference to its particular interests of the urban "unionists." The boycotting of the elections by the Greeks was not unanimous, and nine members of the Greek population were found ready to serve on the Legislative Council. In the representations made to the British Government by the delegate sent by the Archbishop of Cyprus, was an invidious reference to "two Maronite priests," while of the other seven Greek members of the Legislative Council it was said that they, "taking advantage of the policy of abstention, have

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come in through no moral qualifications to draw the esteem of the people, and with no capacity empowering them to represent the interests of the country." It is not difficult to infer from this attitude towards men of their race the kind of policy which these memorialists, headed by their higher clergy, would adopt, when in power, towards their Turkish fellow-citizens. This point is stressed by the Colonial Secretary, who declares that he is in favour of the appointment of Greeks to the higher administrative offices. He mentions two such appointments recently made, and adds:— "The allocation of other important offices to natives of the island must await further proof of their ability to discharge the duties not only with competence, but also with that freedom from racial prejudice which has not yet been generally apparent among them."

The present deadlock in Cyprus must be thoroughly unsatisfactory to both parties. The Cyprus Government has shown quite clearly its intention to carry on despite the abstention of the bulk of the Greek community, and there is now the definite statement of the British Government that the course of events since 1915, when Great Britain was ready to consent to the union of Cyprus with Greece, but the offer was refused by the Greek Government, "has been such as to render it, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, impossible to renew the offer and the matter must be regarded as closed." The agitators are probably aware that there is no prospect of union with Greece in the near future and that their present policy is a mistake. They hesitate to abandon it, however, for fear of those whom they have induced to support them. Some outside influence might quickly bridge the gulf between the two parties, and it is here that the attitude of the Church authorities is seen to be so foolish and mischievous. What finer rôle could there be for a prelate in the position of the Archbishop of Cyprus than to appear as mediator between the Greek Adullamites and the Government, who, whatever fault may be found with it in regard to details, has shown a single-minded effort to promote the good of the island as a whole? As the present incumbent of that high office has made himself the mouthpiece of political agitation in the island, it is left to the Government to make as easy as possible the return of the misguided laymen to the path of political sanity. The memorialists have asked for a special commission to be sent to Cyprus to investigate the affairs of the island, and the Colonial Secretary has rejected the request on the ground that he sees no reason for such a step. He is, no doubt, right; but it might conduce to the smoother working of the official machinery in Cyprus if the request were granted, on the condition that the so-called "National Assembly" of Greeks were first disbanded. Cyprus is to be represented next year at the British Empire Exhibition. It would be grave folly if for one reason or another that representation were handicapped by political divisions in the island, which prevented wholehearted co-operation among all sections of the people. The moment is opportune for a statesmanlike move to bury the past.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Mediterranean.

In the *Illustrated Review* of October Mr. Hilaire Belloc writes on the British position in the Mediterranean, and the challenging of it by Continental Powers. He begins by showing the importance to this country of our position there, how our establishment of it arose not through conquest but through policy, and how our grip was at its tightest at the end of 1918, when Egypt, the Suez Canal, Constantinople, Malta, Gibraltar, Cyprus, the Southern Levantine Coast, and so on, were in our hands. But, he says, "it was certain as a result of the Great War, with France and Italy present as victorious Powers upon the Allied side . . . and with the advent of the aeroplane and submarine . . . that the position of Britain in the Mediterranean would be challenged." It has already, he goes on, been challenged: first, when the Turkish forces were armed against the Greek, and next when the Italians occupied Corfu.

The Corfu incident, he says, has convinced "every Italian that in case of necessity Corfu can be held; and that for the future the Adriatic is virtually Italian, with a subsidiary base to be taken at will for submarines, for aeroplanes, and all other naval work." The political instinct of the British people, feeling this threat upon their naval security, led to the policy of adopting the League of Nations, to which Greece was made to appeal, as an instrument of British interests. It might have appeared that "the French group" would, owing to the fact that the Little Entente were in this matter against Italy, have been defeated, instead of which the French were "able to escape from their dilemma and to come out of the episode stronger, if anything, than before it took place." But when France put the affair into the hands of the Council of Ambassadors, Britain, by assenting to the proposal, allowed herself to be outflanked, and the chance of setting France against Italy was lost. He concludes by suggesting that "the League worked in support of the national position against its rivals may be serviceable." Its abstract use in other spheres he dismisses entirely.

The Defence of the Suez Canal.

In the *Manchester Guardian* of October 24 Major-General Sir F. Maurice writes on "Egypt and Imperial Defence: The Place for the Garrison." He begins by saying that the Imperial Conference is being pressed to veto the proposal that the garrison of British troops to protect the Suez Canal should be quartered elsewhere than in Cairo. He goes on:—

> Obviously the presence of a permanent British garrison in the capital of Egypt is likely to involve us in political complications, and no one would desire to create these complications if they can be avoided without injury to other and more important interests. It is suggested that they cannot, that Egypt is a main strategic point on the road to India, Australia, and the Cape, and that only by holding Cairo can the position be secured.

This argument, I think, contains two fallacies.

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The first of these is embodied in the catch-phrase that the Suez Canal is a vital artery of the British Empire. That is not true, fortunately for us. To get to the Suez Canal from British ports our ships have to traverse the length of the Mediterranean, and of all the sea routes in the world that from Gibraltar to Port Said is at present one of the most difficult for us to secure against submarine attack. That was shown to be the case during the war, when a small number of German submarines for a time made the Mediterranean route a very dangerous one. If the Suez Canal were a vital route to the Empire we should be involved in enormous naval commitments, and even then our prospects of maintaining sea communication to the East via Egypt might in certain circumstances be precarious. The route to the East through the Suez Canal happens to be the cheapest and most convenient trade route, and is therefore of great value to us, but it is not the only route, and its interruption would not mean strangulation.

He says that not until 1838, when Mohammed Ali overran Syria, did the importance of Egypt as a link in our Eastern communications become important, and from our occupation of India until this date we had not noticed that we had been living without a vital artery. He continues:—

> Since 1838 the increase in the size and speed of ships tends to make the Canal route, as compared with the Cape route, strategically less and less indispensable. Even as an air station it is doubtful whether Egypt is an indispensable link. We cannot get an "All-British" route to India and the East for aeroplanes, and it is at least probable that it would pay us better to co-operate with the French in establishing an air route to India via Syria than to attempt to build upon one through Egypt.
>
> The conclusion is that Egypt has a definite value to us as a transit station, and it is worth our while paying a definite price to obtain a definite return, but we need not contemplate the end of the British Empire if we cannot use Egypt, and therefore we have not to be ready to die in the last ditch in defence of the right of user.
>
> The second fallacy is that the occupation of Cairo is essential to the security of the Suez Canal. The Suez Canal may be attacked either from the sea or from the air or from the land. The occupation of Cairo has clearly no connection with defence against attack from the sea. The possibility of attack from the air or by land from the east has been made more remote that it ever was by our occupation of Palestine; indeed, that is one of the chief military arguments in favour of the policy of holding the Holy Land. There remains the question of securing the Canal against attack from Egypt itself. I doubt if there is any soldier who, having to solve the problem of protecting the Canal in the most economical way against the possibility of such an attack, would, leaving political considerations altogether aside, elect to garrison Cairo. There are obvious military disadvantages in having troops in a great Eastern town. In the event of disturbances those troops might be occupied in quelling riots by mobs which in the open had no military value whatever. Such mobs might delay or prevent altogether the timely concentration of the troops for the protection of the Canal. The mob of Cairo would of itself be able to achieve nothing whatever against the Canal, and by putting troops into Cairo a supposititious enemy is presented with a weapon which he would not otherwise possess.

In conclusion, he selects Zagazig as the natural place for a garrison. Of its merits he says:—

> Zagazig is a railway junction about forty-five miles north-north-east of Cairo. It is at the apex of an equilateral triangle of which the Canal forms the base, and is connected by rail with Port Said, Suez, and Ismailia. Through it also passes the railway made during the war which runs to El Kantara and on to Jerusalem.

Articles to Note.

"The Problem of India's Aspirations," by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru; "Croatia and Great Serbia," by M. Edith Durham; and "The Italo-Greek Incident: A Reply to Dr. William Miller," by Luigi Villari, in the *Contemporary Review* (November).

Ceylon is contributing ten thousand rupees (£666) towards the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

The Cadre General Headquarters, British Forces in Turkey, is now accommodated at the Howard Hotel, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2, where all correspondence should in future be addressed.

Negotiations between Bulgaria and Roumania concerning the sequestration of Bulgarian property in Roumania are shortly to be resumed. M. Minkoff, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will represent Bulgaria.

Whilst returning to his home in Sofia on October 30 the former Minister, Dr. Nicolas Ghenadieff, was assassinated. M. Gueshoff, a former Bulgarian Minister at Berlin and Constantinople, who was with him, was seriously wounded.

A Calcutta dispatch announces that thirteen Anglo-Indian ex-Service men are leaving on November 20 for the Andaman Islands as pioneers of a movement for settling Anglo-Indians in the Andamans, where the climate and other conditions are considered to be suitable.

Mr. H. Morgenthau, the former American Ambassador at Constantinople, left London for Athens last Thursday. He is chairman of the Commission which is working out the decisions of the Treaty of Lausanne concerning the exchange of vast Greek and Turkish populations.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

Mr. Baldwin's Policy.

At Manchester Mr. Baldwin carried the elucidation of his policy a little further by stating that no taxes will be imposed on bread or meat. Apart from this negative disclosure (of the first importance, of course, from the point of view of an election), we are still left in the dark as to the measures that are in contemplation, though it would not require any great stretch of imagination to visualise some of the industries that he will propose to assist. The silk industry of Nottingham and the tyre industry obviously require protection, and in neither case can I imagine a dissentient voice, even from among the most perfervid supporters of the policy of *laïssez faire*. But it is one thing to protect the home market against foreign "dumping" and another to give the Dominions preferential treatment that will really satisfy them in their present state of development. If Mr. Baldwin can accomplish this and still retain the support of the electorate he will have done wonders. The proposed concessions that have been already announced go a long way, it is true, but while, as I have pointed out, they have been received with much gratification by the representatives of the Empire overseas, it would be futile to suppose that they represent the realisation of expectations in view of the nature of the present exports of the Dominions. Still, it may well be that they will be accepted for the present as an instalment; and Mr. Baldwin's object at the moment, it must be remembered, is to alleviate unemployment here, and with limited protection it is not too optimistic to anticipate that in present conditions he may achieve a marked measure of success.

Trade with Greece.

The report on conditions in Greece, further extracts from which will be found on another page in this issue, brings clearly into relief the difficulties with which British traders had to contend during the past year. The vicissitudes of the exchange presented a sufficiently serious barrier to the development of commerce, to say nothing of anything else. Even now the position in Greece is very uncertain, and it is obvious that until stable conditions obtain the prospects for the extension of British trade must be doubtful. It needs no emphasis that after Greece's unfortunate experiences a long period of peace is essential for the economic recuperation of the country and to permit the development of its undoubted resources. More, perhaps, than many other countries Greece needs external assistance, and this would be readily forthcoming for the many necessary works of development if there is any certainty of an era of tranquility. But while there is any likelihood of a recrudescence of disturbance it is obvious that foreign capital will not readily be available.

Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

At the general meeting of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway (a report of which will be found in another column) the chairman, Mr. Robert Miller, gave an interesting survey of the position of the company. The gross earnings of the company for the year were the best on record, and the improvement, he explained, was largely the result of the extinction, as from March 31, 1922, of the Freight Tax Act of 1917. The working expenses for the year, which showed an increase of 4¼ lakhs, amounted to 64·21 per cent. of the gross earnings, as compared with 71·53 per cent. for the previous year, and Mr. Miller pointed out that this result had only been reached by the practice of the most rigid economy, and that in his opinion the point has been reached when the continued repression of working expenses will impair efficiency. Mr. Miller remarked that the strong revival of trade which everyone is anxiously awaiting has not yet set in, but stated that the returns of the railway for the current year show some improvement in gross earnings. The railway, it is interesting to recall, began its existence as a pioneer line, and it has had to create its own traffic, which, Mr. Miller emphasised, "has now reached in freight the very creditable sum of 5 million pounds sterling per annum."

The Sukkur Barrage.

Remarkable as are the irrigation works that have been carried out in Egypt and India, they are one and all dwarfed by the great undertaking known as the Sukkur Barrage scheme which has now been begun. Sir George Lloyd, Governor of Bombay, who laid the foundation-stone of the barrage, which is henceforward to be known by his name, in his speech on that occasion gave some interesting details of the extensive nature of the project. The barrage will provide for the cultivation of an area equal to that of any five of the larger English counties, while two of the three great canals that will carry off on the right bank the waters of the Indus are wider than the Suez Canal, while the Rohri Canal on the left bank will be nearly half as broad again as the Suez Canal. Sir George pointed out that some idea of the volume of water thus made available for irrigation purposes might be obtained when it was realised that one of the canals on the right bank would have a discharge not far short of the maximum discharge of the Thames.

COMMENTATOR.

BANK OF ROUMANIA LIMITED

(FOUNDED 1866).

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Branch: 11, CALEA VICTORIEI, BUCAREST.

Directors:

E. W. H. BARRY, Esq.
C. De CERJAT, Esq.
The VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
General The Hon. SIR H. A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
Lieut.-Col. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

Bankers:

BANK OF ENGLAND. Messrs. GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE, HOLT & CO.

A general Banking business with Roumania is conducted, and correspondence from those having interests in that country is invited

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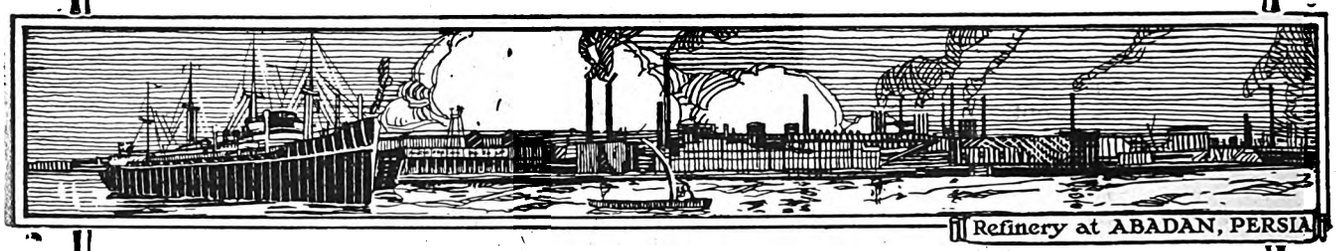


Refinery at ABADAN, PERSIA

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL CO., LTD.

"The All-British Oil Company"

The range of products manufactured by the Company and its subsidiaries includes :—

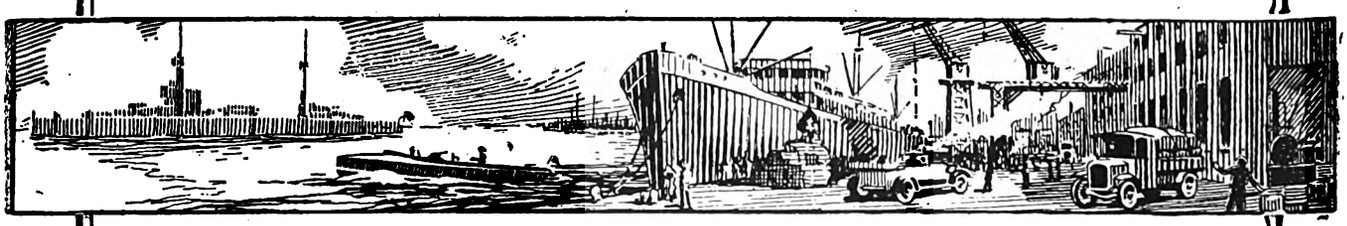
Aviation Spirit, Motor Spirit, Lamp Oils, White Oils (Turpentine Substitute), Gas Oils, Tractor Vaporising Oils, Diesel and Semi-Diesel Oils, Fuel Oil, Lubricating and Batching Oils, Paraffin Wax and Candles.

The ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY controls by itself and through its associated Companies Bunkering Stations at the following Ports :—

LONDON	ABADAN	DURBAN
Royal Albert Docks	ADEN	FREMANTLE
and Purfleet	ALGIERS	HAVRE
AVONMOUTH	ANTWERP	KARACHI
GRANGEMOUTH	BOMBAY	MADRAS
HULL	BORDEAUX	MARSEILLES
JARROW (Tyne)	CALCUTTA	MELBOURNE
LEITH	CHRISTIANIA	MOMBASA
LIVERPOOL	COLOMBO	ORAN
MANCHESTER	COPENHAGEN	PORT SAID
SOUTHAMPTON	DONGES (Loire)	RANGOON
SUNDERLAND	DUNKIRK	SYDNEY
SWANSEA		

Other Stations are in the course of erection.

British in Capital, Management and Policy



ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL Co., Ltd.

Britannic House, 23 Gt. Winchester St., E.C.2

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British Consular Reports.

IX.—GREECE—(*Continued*).

Those firms who have carried out preliminary surveys for development work of various kinds have not been given contracts and have had to confine their efforts to collecting payments to them for this preparatory work. Only one firm has been able to begin actual work, at the harbour of Candia, in Crete. There is obviously little inducement to British firms to commit themselves to definite engagements in present economic conditions, but at the same time the work will have to be carried out in due course, and British firms will be well advised, while not necessarily entering into too definite engagements at present, to keep a close watch on the progress of events in order that, when more stable political conditions have been established, they may not be out-distanced by the American, French, German, and Italian competitors who are fully alive to the possibilities of Greece as a field for exploitation.

The position of British firms, industrial, commercial, and insurance, who have been for many years operating in Greece, is becoming a precarious one; well-established concerns which have persevered in spite of disappointing results in their endeavours to make a livelihood out of their Greek concessions are beginning seriously to wonder whether the game is worth the candle. Already before the revolution, economic legislation in 1922 had consisted almost entirely of revenue producing measures, and the fiscal policy of the Government, though their efforts to make Greece self-supporting by taxation in the absence of foreign financial assistance cannot but be eulogised, has been such as must sooner or later tend to drive foreign capital out of the country.

Imports.

The increase in customs duties and the diminishing purchasing power of the drachma in foreign markets, discouraged imports into Greece, especially from countries with a high-value currency, although at the same time the needs of the army and later of the refugees made it essential for Greece to make large purchases abroad. The total imports amounted to 3,085,474,528 drachmæ as compared with 1,725,604,877 drachmæ in 1921, and in the absence of tonnage statistics,* it would appear at first sight as though a remarkable increase in imports had taken place. Account must, however, be taken of the rate of exchange, which (even if we only take the first nine months, i.e., before the collapse) averaged about 116 drachmæ to the pound, whereas during 1921 the average rate was about 52, so that after revising the figures according to these averages and bringing them to the same sterling level, they would compare roughly as follows:—1922: 3,085,474,528 divided by 116 equals £26,598,918; 1921: 1,725,604,877 divided by 52 equals £33,184,705. At the actual average for the whole year (about 165) the difference is even more marked.

The order of the four principal supplying countries—the United States, Great Britain, Italy, and France—remains unchanged. The principal articles of importation are agricultural products (principally flour and wheat), which account for over 1,250 million drachmæ or two-fifths of the total imports, and textile yarns and fabrics, which are responsible for over 579 millions, or more than one-fifth. Minerals and raw metals (218 millions), chemical products (167 millions), sugar (195 millions) and manufactured metals (97 millions) are the other main items of importation. Detailed figures for the whole of 1922 are not yet available, but during the first ten months of the year of the cereal imports over 40 per cent. (157,000 tons) of wheat was supplied by Canada, 35 per cent. (113,000 tons) from the United States; barley and maize and other cereals were supplied mainly from Roumania. Out of a total quantity of 23,000 tons of wheat flour, 7,000 tons came from the U.S.A. and 6,550 from Egypt.

In textiles, Great Britain and Italy are the principal suppliers of cotton yarn and thread; Great Britain of cotton fabric (over one-half—America and Italy supplying between them two-thirds of the remainder); in woollen yarn, one-third each of the total was furnished by Great Britain and Belgium and in woollen cloth over one-half was supplied by Great Britain and nearly one-quarter by Italy. H.M. Consul at Corfu draws attention to the increasing quantity of Italian textile imports to that island, doubtless owing, as in the rest of Greece, largely to cheaper freights as well as cheaper prices. The British Vice-Consul at Zante notes that American cabots are driving British "T" cloths off the market there.

The greater proportion of mineral imports comprise coal (187,000 tons, of which 172,000 comes from the United Kingdom), iron (15,000 tons, or five-eighths from Belgium, one-eighth from Germany, and three-sixteenths from Great Britain), petroleum (five-eighths from Roumania and one-quarter from the U.S.A.). Of chemical products the most important are sulphate of copper (6,778 tons, of which 5,911 tons were supplied from Great Britain), benzine (for motor fuel, 3,560 tons, U.S.A. sending 1,692 tons, and Roumania 1,234); quinine—a monopoly article of which about three-fifths comes from Germany and one-fifth from Great Britain; and dyestuffs; Germany supplies over one-third of the latter, Belgium one-fifth, France one-eighth, and Great Britain about one-sixth. The position has changed considerably in this field, as in 1921 Great Britain supplied over one-third and Germany only one-seventh, while Belgian trade has also increased. In soda, two-thirds of the trade is divided equally between Great Britain and Belgium, the latter having considerably improved her position since 1921.

In manufactured metal goods there has been a marked drop in British imports, and Great Britain takes a very low place, Germany being the principal supplier of agricultural implements, machinery in general, domestic utensils, steel, brass, zinc, tin articles, and silverware. Belgium has more than doubled its trade in metal articles, and is now the principal supplier of these goods, and specially of nails, rivets, etc. Crete has imported a good proportion of machinery, drugs, and domestic glass and ironware from Germany, amounting to some 3 million drachmæ.

Taking the rate of exchange into consideration, the imports from Great Britain for the years 1921 and 1922 show the following approximate figures:—1921 (at 52), 293,516,446 drachmæ equalling £5,644,547; 1922 (at 116), 444,825,637 drachmæ equalling £3,834,703, or a decrease of approximately 31 per cent. This decrease, however, is not quite so marked as would at first appear, since reference to some of the British figures shows that the value of articles, owing to the reduction of prices, is in nearly every case proportionately lower than in 1921. In any case, an improvement may be expected when the purchasing power of the drachma is increased and a better economic situation enables

* Approximate tonnage figures are given as 1,050,384 tons compared with 62,450 tons in 1921.

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greater confidence to be established in Greek trading methods.

Matches are a Government monopoly, and have been obtained from the Alsing Trading Company of London, who were given an order in 1922 for 8,000 cases at £8 per case, c.i.f. Piræus. They are sold in Greece to the retailer at 0.45 drachma per box, the price having been raised from 0.19 drachma in 1921. Sixty million boxes were sold in 1922. Playing cards—another monopoly article—are largely manufactured in Corfu, but the better quality cards are supplied by Grimaud. Prices range from 20.00 to 40.00 drachmæ per pack of 52 and 15.00 to 20.00 drachmæ per pack of 32.

Exports.

Exports from Greece in 1922 amounted to 314,456 tons, and their value to 2,485,080,174 drachmæ, as compared with 947,728,503 drachmæ in 1921. It must be observed that they have increased to every country except Yugoslavia, Spain, Norway, and Russia, and have more than doubled (in value) to many other destinations. Here again the fall in the drachma and the corresponding rise in the valuation of all commodities is a factor to be taken into consideration rather than any increased purchases due to the former. Actual increase in tonnage is apparent only (from the detailed statistics for the first ten months) in cheese, hides, tobacco (30,896 tons against 20,175), olive oil (14,641 tons against 9,135), olives, colophony, turpentine, magnesite (23,524 tons against 18,349), soap (8,352 tons against 7,681), and wine (43,975 tons against 10,613), the principal customer being France, with 28,000 tons. Great Britain is a prominent purchaser only in sponges, citrous fruits, figs, raisins, and, of course, currants (of which 43,000 tons out of 63,000—or two-thirds—went to the United Kingdom during the period in question), emery (one-half the export), and lead ore.

While British imports into Greece totalled in value nearly 445 million drachmæ, Greek exports to the United Kingdom amounted to 422 millions, Great Britain being Greece's third best customer after the United States (660 million drachmæ) and Germany (524½ million drachmæ), Italy coming fourth with 205 millions and Holland fifth with 148 millions.

Industry.

Greece is not primarily an industrial country, and her manufactures have not reached a high pitch of development. Consumption is almost entirely local, the export of manufactured goods being insignificant. Most of the factories are small, but they cover a large variety of articles.

There are signs that industry is developing, and some of the prominent Greek business men who have hitherto been engaged purely in mercantile operations, are investing capital in industrial companies and creating groups for the establishment of new and modernisation of old factories.

The influx of refugees from Asia Minor has encouraged the establishment of carpet factories, in some of which well-known British carpet importers have interested themselves. There are now three in Athens, one in Megara, one at Myconos, one at Hydra, and one at Mitylene, each possessing from 10 to 55 looms, and, taking smaller establishments into consideration, there are probably 150 looms in existence employing 400 workpeople and producing 5,000 square metres of carpets annually. What was formerly a handicraft is now likely to become a regular industry, as neither labour nor capital are lacking, and it is estimated that even if only one-fifth of the Asia Minor industry is transferred to Greece as a result of the Smyrna catastrophe, something like 140,000 square metres of carpets, valued at 85 million drachmæ, will be produced per annum.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

BENGAL - NAGPUR RAILWAY.

Record Earnings.

The sixty-fifth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company, Ltd., was held on November 1 at 132, Gresham House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Robert Miller (the chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. R. C. F. Volkers, C.I.E.) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' report,

The Chairman, in the course of his speech in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said:

The gross earnings for the year were Rs.762 lakhs, which gives an average of Rs.539 per mile per week and Rs.6 per train mile. These figures are the highest on record for the undertaking. The corresponding figures last year for gross earnings were Rs.677 lakhs, and the increase during the year was therefore Rs.93 lakhs, or just Rs.7 lakhs short of the increase anticipated in my address to you last year. This improvement in gross earnings is largely the result of the extinction as from March 31, 1922, of the Freight Tax Act of 1917, under the operation of which, as I explained to you last year, the Government raised revenue by taxing goods conveyed by railways and river steamers. This revenue so far as it accrued from railway traffic was legitimate railway gross earnings—or, to put it accurately, it was revenue which railways could and would have earned had they been permitted to revise their tariffs, which, however, was not possible so long as the Act continued in operation.

Trade during the period did not show much signs of revival, and even at the present time trade everywhere continues more or less stagnant. At any rate, the strong revival which we are anxiously looking out for has not yet set in.

The working expenses during the year were Rs.488,51,981, absorbing 64.21 per cent. of gross earnings, as compared with Rs.484,29,146, absorbing 71.53 per cent. of gross earnings, the corresponding figures of the previous year. Compared with the increase in gross earnings, the increase of Rs.4¼ lakhs in working expenses is a negligible figure. It is, however, necessary for me to say that it has cost an effort, a great effort, to keep the figure of working expenses practically stationary during the year.

As regards the prospects of the railway during the current year, the returns received to date show some improvement in gross earnings. It has to be remembered that the railway began its existence as a pioneer line, and the point I wish to make clear to you is that there was at first no traffic worth the name in the greater part of the vast tract of country through which the railway was carried. The railway has thus had to make its traffic, nursing its first beginnings by low rates and fostering it till it has now reached in freight the very creditable sum of upwards of 5 million pounds sterling per annum.

In the continued upward progress of its traffic it is necessary for the railway to continue its role of a pioneer line. A branch is under construction and is now nearing completion from Amda to Jamda, with an extension to Gua, to enable the growing demand for iron ore to be met. The Gurumashini branch is being extended with the same object to Onlajori. The Bokharo-Ramgarh branch of the railway is being extended westward to the South Karanpura coalfield. The Hesla Chandil Chord, which I mentioned last year as being about to be begun, is in process of construction. It will furnish an outlet independent of the Bokharo-Ramgarh branch for that portion of the output of the South Karanpura coalfield to destinations south and west. The line from Kapilas Road Station, near Cuttack, to the Talchir coalfield has also been begun. Then we have acquired from the Panposh-Raipura Branch Line Company, and incorporated in the undertaking, their short line of 14 miles to the extensive limestone hills north of Panposh, and we are proceeding to provide extensions to the vicinity of quarries about to be opened out to enable the limestone to be transported to Bengal, where it is in great demand by iron and steel works and for building purposes. Further, we look forward to being in a position at no distant date to complete the Raipur-Vizianagram direct route to the sea at Vizagapatam from the Central Provinces as soon as work on the harbour has been actively begun. At the same time we are improving the main line at considerable cost so as to enable it to deal effectually both with existing traffic as well as with the traffic which the new lines under construction will create. Generally, the railway has been maintained up to its usual good standard, and your board are fully alive to looking well forward to the future and providing for it.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E., seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

The proposed dividend and bonus were adopted. The retiring directors (Mr. Robert Miller and Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson, K.C.I.E.) were re-elected, and the auditors were reappointed, and the proceedings then terminated.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

THE MOTOR SHOW.

It is the fashion to deal in superlatives, and it is somewhat difficult to avoid using them in connection with this year's Motor Show at Olympia. In every way it is a most notable event. Since the last Show Olympia has been enlarged, and there has, therefore, been no need this time to house a large section of the motors at the White City, and, with all the exhibits in one building, there is no suggestion of overcrowding as regards the stands. There is room and to spare, enabling the exhibits to be set off to great advantage. At a casual glance the impression is one of a bewildering range of cars of all sorts and types, and in this case the first idea is not far from the truth, for the Show this year is thoroughly representative of this great and growing industry. It would be quite impossible to inspect the Show in one day except in the most cursory manner; indeed, a week would probably not be too much, that is, if one is not to miss many of the novelties and new developments that have been introduced. For one of the outstanding features of the Show, it must be emphasised, is the evidence of advance that is to be seen on every hand, making it clear beyond a peradventure that the industrial depression has not been permitted to impede progress. A large number of stands are devoted to the productions of leading foreign firms, and it is thus possible to compare on the spot the rival merits of British cars and their rivals, and it may be said at once that the home product comes well out of the comparison.

Each Show seems to have one feature peculiarly its own, and this one seems likely to achieve fame as marking the advent of the arrival of the cheap British car. The prices of practically every grade of car, as a matter of fact, show a sharp decrease as compared with last year, but it is naturally the reduction of the prices of the cheapest makes to round about £150 that is most significant. It would mean, if trade were booming, that motors would be brought within the reach of many thousands who would never have dreamed of possessing such a thing; as it is, even in present conditions, it points to a vast extension of the ranks of motor owners, which is very good for the industry, though it may, and probably will, suggest unpleasant reflections to those whose habitat is in London, and who have already had ample experience of traffic congestion. To what devices we shall be led in order to get about at all if the use of the motor increases, as it evidently will in the next few years, must remain to be seen. The condition of the London streets, if the present number of vehicles was to be doubled, is too appalling to bear consideration. Probably dwellers in suburbia would have to rise a couple of hours earlier, and take their place quickly in an already formed block, trusting to good fortune to be able to reach the City some time in the morning.

Turning to the exhibits, Messrs. A. Harper, Sons, and Bean, Ltd., are showing a 14 h.p. 4-cylinder chassis and a five-seater saloon, an 11.9 two-seater, a four-seater, and a two-seater brougham. The 14 h.p. has an engine of 75 bore x 135 stroke. The saloon has a roomy body, admirably turned out, and is an essentially workmanlike production. The 11.9 h.p. has earned a well-deserved popularity, and this year's model, which embodies a number of improvements, notably the provision of a four-gear box, will enhance the reputation of this make. As usual, the stand of Messrs. the Morris Motors, Ltd., is well worthy of attention. The firm are famous for their light cars, which are, indeed, the most popular in the market, and the cars shown are fully in accordance with expectations. The exhibits include an 11.9 h.p. 4-cylinder four-seater car, an 11.9 h.p. car seating two persons in front and two juveniles in the rear, a 13.9 h.p. four-seater. two-seater, and saloon.

Messrs. the Lanchester Motor Co., Ltd., show a 40 h.p. chassis and limousine and a 21 h.p. four-seater. The 40 h.p. car, designed to seat seven people, has an engine 101.6 bore x 127 stroke, three forward speeds, and internal expanding brakes on rear wheels and countershaft. The body is painted a blue-purple shade, and the car is upholstered in morocco leather, and it looks in every way what it is, an extremely fine car. The 21 h.p. model has an engine 74.5 bore x 114 stroke, and is similar in many respects to the larger car. It has internal expanding brakes on all four wheels, and four forward speeds. Messrs. the Star Engineering Co., Ltd., show a 12.25 h.p. chassis, several 12.25 h.p. cars, and an 18.40 h.p. chassis and car. The Star cars are very well-known, and their exhibits are fully up to the high standard that the firm has always maintained. The 12.25 h.p. car has an engine 69 bore x 130 stroke and internal expanding and external contracting brakes on the rear wheels, while the 18.40 h.p. car has an engine 69 bore x 130 stroke, and has four forward speeds and similar brake appliances.

(To be continued.)

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜-97$^{9}/_{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	288-294
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	375-390
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.09-25.11
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$^{11}/_{16}$-1.4$^{23}/_{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	89.55-89.65
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	930-950
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-90,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4$^{11}/_{16}$-1.4$^{23}/_{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	765-785
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.46$^{5}/_{8}$-4.46$^{3}/_{4}$
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	76.95-77.05
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	152$^{5}/_{8}$
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	99$^{3}/_{4}$-100
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	475-495
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	315-318,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	7,500,000*

* Nominal.

OAKEY'S WELLINGTON KNIFE POLISH

SILVERSMITH'S SOAP, for Cleaning and Polishing Silver, Electro Plate, etc. Tablets, 6d.
"WELLINGTON BLACK LEAD" in Solid Blocks, 1d., 2d. and 4d. 1s. Boxes.
Polishing Paste, Furniture Polish, Plate Powder.

The Original Preparation for polishing Cutlery.
Canisters, 1d., 2d., 3d., 6d., 1s., 2s. 6d. and 4s. each.

Glass Paper, Emery Cloth, Black Lead Packers,
WELLINGTON MILLS, WESTMINSTER BRIDGE ROAD, LONDON. S E.1.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

Basrah, September 29.

Business has been fairly active as a result of transactions in sugar and tea. The export of cereals continues to a large extent.

Basrah, October 6.

Transactions in sugar and tea continue to be effected at good profits for the importers. The London market has concluded a few purchases in dates, which allow a slight profit for the shippers.

THE CONSTANTINOPLE MARKET.

The following is taken from a report in the current issue of the Monthly Circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

The signing of peace has not brought the change which the commercial community expected; the same uncertain feeling with regard to the future continues to maintain an atmosphere of expectancy which influences transactions in general unfavourably, with the exception of those connected with articles of first necessity. During August the excessive rise in the £ sterling greatly perturbed the market and almost paralysed business; later the easing of the £ rate caused a slight improvement in the situation. September was marked by a rise in most of the import articles; this tendency cannot be interpreted as an indication of a renewal of business, but rather as the consequence of the rise which occurred in the producing centres.

Economic and political conditions underwent far too deep changes during the last four years to allow a return to normal exchanges in the near future. The market will have to be re-adapted progressively before equilibrium is reached. Merchants must know the exact requirements of the country before passing orders abroad; other factors, the most important of which are foreign exchanges and the Customs régime, will play the principal part in the future of the Constantinople market.

P. AND O. DIVIDEND.

The directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. recommend a final dividend on the deferred stock of 6 per cent. for the six months, free of income-tax, making, with the interim dividend of 6 per cent. paid in May, a total distribution on the deferred stock of 12 per cent. for the year.

ANGLO-TURKISH TRUST.

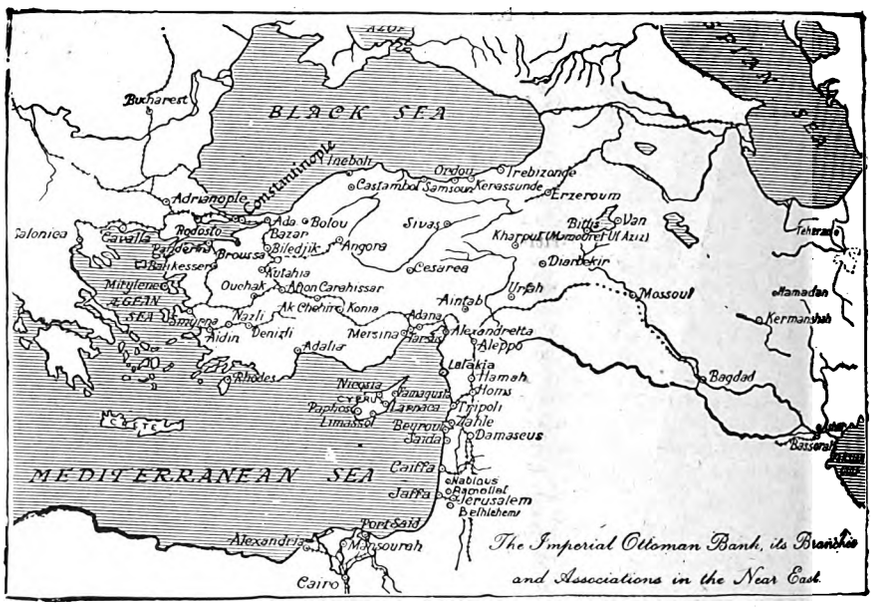
The Anglo-Turkish Trust Co., Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £5,000, in £1 shares. The objects are to acquire and hold shares in the capitals of the Anatolian Railway Co., the Haidar Pashe Port Co. and the Mersina-Tarsus-Adana Railway Co., to acquire any shares or securities of any railway company or railway trust, whether now existing or that may be formed relating to operations in Turkey, Turkey in Asia, or elsewhere, etc.

The directors of the Royal Exchange Assurance have declared an interim dividend of 8 per cent., less tax, on account of the year ending December 31.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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THE BRITISH INDUSTRIES FAIR.

Its Widening Scope.

The announcement some weeks ago by the Department of Overseas Trade of the alteration of date in the holding of the annual British Industries Fair for 1924 promises to be thoroughly justified by the results.

For the past nine years the Fair has been held regularly during the latter half of February, occasionally running on into the first week of March. The next, the tenth fair, will be held two months later—from April 28 to May 9—and the Birmingham Section, instead of being concurrent with or overlapping the London Section, as has been the case in previous years, will follow, opening on May 12 and closing on May 23. Before coming to a decision on this question of date, the Department gave the fullest consideration to the views expressed by the exhibitors in the various sections, and although these opinions naturally differed widely, not only among the distinct trades, but even within the trades themselves, it was decided that the weight of argument lay with the later date. It is obvious that the holding of an exhibition on the scale of the British Empire Exhibition outweighs all normal considerations, and that the Department was fully justified in its decision to depart from the usual date.

It appeared possible, however, that this radical change in the policy of the fair, which had hitherto ante-dated Leipzic by a week to ten days, might have adversely affected the representative character of the exhibits. It is therefore especially gratifying to announce that the Department has received substantial support for its point of view in the form of an increased number of applications as compared with an equivalent stage of the organisation a year ago.

With the Imperial Conference and the Economic Conference in session, the consideration of the commercial world is concentrated on the question of the expansion of Imperial trade. The present condition of the world's markets is also exerting pressure in the same direction. The political uncertainty and financial confusion of the Continent of Europe as a whole is compelling the British manufacturer to give his fullest attention to the requirements and conditions of the Dominions and Colonial markets; while the Imperial overseas producer can find few safe outlets in Europe beyond the United Kingdom. Any factor, therefore, tending to strengthen the existing bonds of Imperial commerce deserves the fullest possible support, and among such factors the annual British Industries Fair occupies a place of the first importance.

It is now nine years since the first Fair was organised, with the limited purpose of promoting the manufacture in the United Kingdom of articles previously imported from abroad. It became evident in 1915 that, having stimulated the production of these various lines, the Government must go a step further and help to provide a market where the goods could be shown to the Dominions and neutral nations; hence the first British Industries Fair. The fact that the Fair has been held annually since that date is ample evidence of its utility both to the exhibitor and the buyer. In the meanwhile it has far outstripped its original limited purpose, and has taken its place as a great annual event in the British commercial calendar; also the widening Imperial aspect of the Fair has in the last few years been appealing with increasing force to the manufacturer as well as to the buyer from the Dominions.

For several years individual Dominion firms have participated, and an official Indian exhibit has been included. Last year the Dominion interest was reinforced by a combined exhibit organised by the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in London, with the most successful results. The present crusade for the expansion of Imperial trade, based as it is on the soundest economic and political principles, could find no fitter objective than a great demonstration of Imperial industries before the genuine trade buyers of the Empire, the United States, and Europe, who have attended in their hundreds at past Fairs. To sell goods in export markets those goods must be made known; to make goods known there is no better medium than a well-organised trade fair, where every visitor is a potential customer. By exhibiting his actual products the manufacturer gives direct evidence of the quality and value of his wares, and gains the inestimable benefit of personal touch with old and new customers, which, supplemented by judicious advertising, cannot fail to bring increased business.

The world-wide propaganda campaign conducted on behalf of the Fair during the past four years by the Department of Overseas Trade is cumulative in its effects, and will be enormously reinforced next year by the co-operative publicity arranged between the Department and the authorities of the British Empire Exhibition.

The advantage of the Fair from the buyer's point of view scarcely needs to be explained. Without the Fair and the concentration of the goods it affords, the buyer interested in British manufactures would have to spend weeks, and possibly months, in railway trains and hotels. A comparison as to prices and qualities would necessarily have to be made in retrospect, whereas with all the goods and prices side by side for immediate comparison the difficulties of selection are reduced to a minimum. Also, since the general public is not admitted, buyers are not handicapped by crowds of sightseers. It has, in fact, been sought to arrange that there shall be no handicaps.

As regards the precise services and opportunities which the Fair offers the British manufacturer first and foremost it brings him into direct touch with the buyer, and presents an ever-recurring opportunity for him to show his wares to new buyers, both home and overseas. Even if immediate orders are not received, the buyer takes away with him notes of special lines and all particulars necessary for opening business at the moment favourable to his own market. The fact that admittance to the Fair is confined to the *bonâ-fide* buyer by special invitation means that everyone passing the turnstiles is a potential customer. Thus participation is a form of specialised publicity of the very highest value, secured at a moderate cost.

As opposed to the ordinary means of obtaining orders, necessarily spread over a considerable period, successful participation in the Fair gives pronounced advantages. An exhibitor booking substantial orders at the Fair—it has not infrequently happened that a firm has booked its entire output for the year—is able to make considerable savings in production costs. His needs in raw material and labour are clearly defined and his programme of production can be worked on the most economical lines.

Nor are the possibilities of new business resulting from participation confined to the period of the Fair alone. The despatch of "follow-up" letters by the Department of Overseas Trade to thousands of overseas buyers has in the past brought hundreds of inquiries from overseas buyers requesting to be put into touch with British firms in a specified trade. In many cases this is known to have resulted in substantial orders, and it is fair to assume that, in others, orders of which the department has not been notified have also been received.

TRAVELLING FACILITIES IN EGYPT.

It is announced that the Egyptian State Railways, under an arrangement made with hotels in Upper Egypt and the International Sleeping Car Company, will issue from November 15 to January 15 next inclusive combined railway, sleeping-car and hotel coupons at reduced rates for periods of five, seven, and ten days. Coupons will be issued from Cairo, Alexandria, or Port Said to Luxor or Aswan. Rates for five days, first-class, range from £E12 from Cairo to Luxor to £E14 from Port Said to Aswan, and second-class from £E7.500 to £E8.500 between the same places; for seven days the respective rates are £E14.500 to £E16.500 first class and £E9.500 to £E10.500 second class; and for ten days £E18 to £E20 first class, and £E12.500 to £E13.500 second class. The second class combined coupons do not include sleeping-car berths, but are available by day as well as night trains.

Anglo-Egyptian Oil Output.—Week ended October 19: Gemsah, 8 tons; Hurghada, 3,151 tons.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Some Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended October 26, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active for both Sakellarides and Ashmouni. The continued rise in New York has brought prices of American cotton to a level much higher than that of the competing growths, and the consequent tendency has been to divert spinners' attention to the latter. Ashmouni being the variety mostly used as a substitute for the long staple American has enjoyed an improved demand, and the result has been a sharp narrowing of the difference between Sakel and Ashmouni; at to-day's close the difference between November Sakel and December Ashmouni is but $1.85, whereas it was $3.05 a week ago and $3.93 a fortnight ago. During October 3,250 krs. were delivered on dockets. Some speculators who were buyers of Sakel against sales of Ashmouni were badly caught and had to close their straddles at a heavy loss For a few minutes at the close of the position October showed a premium of $1¼ on December. Arrivals from up-country continue to be very heavy, and those coming from Upper Egypt find a very ready sale; the arrivals of Sakel are not so keenly sought after, but the demand for this variety is also good.

The Government continues to buy at current prices round about 200 bales of Sakel daily, but naturally this quantity is too small to have any effect on prices. This week's receipts amount to 335,292 krs., against exports 166,872 krs.; the stock stands at 1,526,583 krs.

Spot.—We have had a week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales for the five business days amount to about 32,400 B/s, of which we estimate 17,000 B/s Sakellarides. 14,800 B/s Uppers, 300 B/s Pilion, 150 B/s Brown, and 150 B/s White. Of this total the Egyptian Government has bought about 1,000 B/s of Sakellarides, fully good fair and fully good fair to good, at the rate of about 200 B/s a day. Uppers continue in strong demand, and once more constitute a substantial portion of the week's turnover. Arrivals continue on a large scale, the interior movement being very heavy; and though exports continue good, the stock shows a substantial increase.

Sakellarides.—There has been business in all styles, but rather more interest has been shown in the grades below good fair than for some time. Prices of spot against contracts for grades below fully good fair have hardened somewhat, for fully good fair are without change, and for the better grades are inclined to ease.

Uppers.—A good business has been done in all styles, with an eager demand for fully good fair and below. Prices of spot against contracts for fair and fully fair are rather dearer than last week, but for other grades are inclined to ease slightly.

Brown and Pilion.—A moderate business has been done in the medium and good grades. Spot prices in both growths are dearer for the low grades, but inclined to ease a little for the better qualities.

White.—A fair business has been done in medium and good grades. Prices of spot against contracts are rather dearer than last week, as there has been rather more inquiry and supplies are still very small.

Crop 1923.—Picking is now completed in almost all districts.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Rather Variable Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended October 31:—

Egyptian Spot.—The early part of the week witnessed a large inquiry both for spot and c.i.f. cotton, and a fairly good business resulted. The strong American markets acted as a stimulus to buyers, both for trade and speculation account, and the feature of the week has been the buying of a line of F.G.F. Sakellaridis cotton for shipment by a local house. It is understood that the price paid varied from pass to 25 points on March (Liverpool) contracts, which to-day appears to be a very cheap basis. Later in the week the future markets eased off, and, as always happens, the spot demand followed suit. Spinners' immediate requirements appear to have been partially filled for the time being by the arrival of the last two or three ships from Egypt, and the scramble for cotton which recently was so marked is no longer to be seen. The majority of spinners are now in a position which enables them to look round for cheap c.i.f. offers, and for the others, who are still compelled to buy on the hand-to-mouth principle, there would now seem to be a sufficient local supply of Sakel, at about 100 on contracts, to meet all urgent needs. Uppers have been largely in request, but prices have been forced up to a figure that is almost prohibitive, and many spinners are leaving it alone for the time being in the hope that the basis will ease again. Given a lower level, we are convinced that a large business should take place this year in this growth, but holders should bear in mind that other so-called "outside growths" are in strong competition, and that pressure from the economic screw forces the spinner to buy, sooner or later, in the cheapest market. Good to fine cotton this week has been in poor request. A persistent demand for white cotton still continues, but up to date there is little to satisfy it. In Sudan a fair business has taken place. The October stocktaking in Liverpool gave a figure of 9,436 bales Sudan, but actual experience in the market leads us to think that the greater part of this stock has already been sold. The total stock of Egyptian is given as 45,575 bales, which contrasts with a figure of 62,929 a year ago. The inquiry for low and re-cleaned cotton continues to dwindle. Forwardings to spinners for the week ended October 26 were returned as 7,697 bales. Although, as we write, business is running on quiet lines only, we are inclined to regard it merely as a temporary lull before the publication of the United States Bureau Report on Friday next, and we look for a recrudescence in the demand at an early date. Estimated sales, 2,900 bales Egyptians and 400 bales Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are raised 20 points, those of Uppers and Brown are 30 points higher. F.G.F Sakel to-day 18.65d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Increase in Business.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 3, states:—

There has been an improved tone in this market during the past week. There still continues to be a large amount of inquiry which, on account of the impossible prices offered, is very trying to the patience of spinners and manufacturers, but there is no doubt that more business than usual has been definitely placed on the order books. Whilst a proportion of this must be at prices which do not cover the cost of production, still less that of replacement, it has afforded relief in the financial sense, and, generally speaking, producers are enabled to display a firmer attitude.

The American Agricultural Bureau issued last evening a supplementary report. This gave the condition of the crop as 47.8, and the estimated total as 10,248,000 bales. The latter figure is 767,000 bales below the estimate given on the 2nd of last month, and caused considerable excitement in New York and Liverpool, prices advancing rapidly. The effect of this on the Manchester market will not, of course, be demonstrated until next week. In the long run it can hardly be other than unfavourable.

Yarn.—There has been a steadier feeling in this section, and there is more regularity in quotations. Stocks have been reduced, and sellers are not so much at the mercy of buyers; naturally they have endeavoured to make the most of the fact, prices being slightly higher.

Cloth.—Developments during the past week have been favourable, and the position of the market has certainly improved. Inquiry is persistent at advancing prices. India has taken light goods and also, by way of a change, quite a fair amount of heavier sheetings. Operations from China have been such as to give grounds for hoping that a better trade is coming from that country. For the Near East and Egypt cheap lines have had a ready sale.

Raw Cotton.—On balance prices of "spot" at the close of business yesterday were little changed from a week ago. The Bureau report, issued last evening, caused a sharp advance in "futures," but its effect on "spot" will, of course, not show itself until to-day; naturally, a sharp advance is to be anticipated. Prices yesterday were as follows:—American Fully Middling, 17.79; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 18.75.

It is reported that a Russo-Persian cotton company has been formed, with a capital of 600,000 tomans (about £100,000) to acquire and export to Russia cotton from Khorassan and other districts.

The directors of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., recommend a dividend of 10s. per share free of income-tax, making with the interim dividend 15 per cent. for the year, and that £49,089 be carried forward. The annual meeting is fixed for November 27.

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Shipping Intelligence.

GREEK SHIPPING IN 1922.

H.M. Vice-Consul at the Piræus, Mr. Watkinson, in a review of shipping at the Piræus in 1922, states that the number of vessels which entered the port in 1922 was 5,789, of a gross tonnage of 4,154,836 tons, as against 5,587, of a gross tonnage of 3,550,836 tons, in 1921. Sailing vessels to the number of 5,792, of a gross tonnage of 158,370 tons, entered the port in 1922, being an increase of 1,057 or 5,828 tons over the preceding year. Towards the close of the year there has been a notable diminution in the movement of the port. The first place is now held by Italy. Great Britain has second place, but until September, when various British ships were employed for the transport of refugees from Smyrna, the British flag lagged some way behind. Thanks to Government subventions Italy is now predominant not only in the Adriatic but also in the Ægean Sea.

Greek vessels had been unable to face the enormous expense of running, and the services from Piræus to foreign ports have been curtailed. It was reported in January, 1923, that less than ten vessels under the Greek flag are now carrying mails abroad. Even Greek importers and exporters have of late been obliged to ship their goods in foreign vessels, as the price of coal increases with the depreciation of the drachma.

The number of vessels entering the Port of Piræus in 1922 (Greek calendar) show an increase on the previous year in the British (26 per cent.), Italian (28 per cent.), French (37 per cent.), Dutch (23 per cent.), and German (21 per cent.) ships calling at Piræus, and a considerable decrease in the number of American, Roumanian, and Spanish vessels. This is largely accounted for by the diversion of shipping from Smyrna towards the end of the year. The total number of vessels under the American flag calling at Piræus during the year shows a decrease of 47 per cent. on 1921. Early in 1922 the Americans were sufficiently confident of the importance of their trade with Greece in the future to establish a Vice-Consulate at Piræus in addition to the previously existing offices in Athens. This was not unnaturally the occasion for enthusiastic comments in the local Press. The United States Shipping Board was said at one time to have 31 vessels engaged in the Greek and Black Sea trade.

Roumanian vessels have called less frequently, as the Roumanian State Line found it necessary to cut down their sailings by 50 per cent. The through passenger service from Constanza to Naples was for a time suspended altogether, and is now run as far as Piræus only. New developments in 1922 have been the commencement of a service under the Bulgarian flag in September between Black Sea ports, Constantinople, and Piræus, and the increased activity of the Khedevial Mail steamers from Alexandria.

The Greek mercantile marine has acquired many new units during 1922. Forty-three steamships were purchased by Greek shipowners, representing a total tonnage of 72,427 tons. Of these, 12 were registered at Piræus and also 48 sailing vessels, 2 motor boats, 46 lighters, 1 salvage boat, and a number of smaller craft. In spite of economic difficulties, steady progress has been made by the Greek merchant service, which now possesses a fleet including 450 ships of over 300 tons with a net tonnage of about 700,000 tons, and 1,200 sailing vessels with a net tonnage of about 210,000 tons. None of the vessels purchased hitherto by Greek shipowners are oil-driven. During 1922, 26 Greek vessels, representing a tonnage of 52,363 tons, were lost—approximately 9 per cent. of the total tonnage owned. Lloyd's Register of Shipping for 1923-1924, published July, 1923, gives the total tonnage under the Greek flag as 81,000 tons less than in 1914, the only other important country with decreased tonnage being Germany. Practically the whole of the internal trade of Greece depends on maritime communication. This is maintained almost entirely by Greek vessels, except at times such as September, 1922, when the wholesale requisitioning of ships for the transfer of troops and refugees from Asia Minor completely disorganised all carrying trade for some time.

Ninety-three British vessels (over 3,000 tons gross) arrived at Piræus in 1922, with coal from South Wales and Durham, wheat from Canadian and American ports, and general cargoes from the United Kingdom and other ports. The majority of these were owned by the Byron Steamship Company and the Furness Withy group and the Ellerman group. A greater number of cruising steamers called at Phaleron and Piræus in 1922 than ever previously, even before the war.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 22).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s. Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 20); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29); s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 1).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Rangoon (Middlesbrough, November 15); s.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Madura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 10); s.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 23); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 24); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 7).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Macmillan for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Pavia for Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, November 10).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunkirk for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 20).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Cressado for Patras, Piraeus, Syra, Volo, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 24).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Mourino for Gibraltar, Malta, Firæus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, November 14).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 17); s.s. Incemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1); A Steamer for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); A Steamer for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Dongola for Bombay (London, November 16); s.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, November 30); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 20).

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA :-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-: BOURGAS VARNA CONSTANZA AND SULINA also from——LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE FIUME GRAVOSA

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 13:—

The estimated arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season amount to 17,210 tons, the estimated sales to date being 15,240 tons. Sultanas are firm. Quotations for shipment at the end of the month are between 2s. to 3s. per cwt. lower than for prompt shipment, but this reduction is accounted for by the lower cost of boxes expected shortly. Shippers are covering immediately their forward sales. The tone of the market is strong, and at the present low level of prices a further decline appears a remote factor.

We would draw attention to the very interesting position of figs. Business in packed figs is over, but considerable interest is likely to develop in naturals. Portuguese and Greeks are out of the running this year. Smyrna genuines are at a moderate level, even computed at pre-war rates. The crop, although a large one, is a misleading factor as the quantity of figs that will be available for export will be short of the normal, unless prices increase to encourage exports. At the actual prices ruling the cost of figs in the growing districts is about one-third of the price of bread. The wheat crop has failed, and flour will have to be imported for the requirements of the country. The native, impoverished already by years of war, is not even covering his expenses for cultivating his vineyards and orchards at the low prices ruling for the sale of his produce this year, and, to ward off famine, is making provision of figs as his staple form of diet for the coming winter. It is probable that the quantity of naturals available for export will fall short of expectations and will be considerably below the world's requirements. The total shipments of bags of figs to the U.K. up to the end of September this season have been:—London, 99,613 bags; Liverpool, 74,748; Hull, 5,007; Bristol, 3,847; Glasgow, 3,949. Shipments to the States during September were negligible. There appear to have been orders placed for October, November, December, January, and February shipment.

DECLINE IN RAW FUR PRICES.

The report of the London Fur Trade Association on the October raw fur skin sales states:—

The October sales were well attended, although the number of foreign buyers was rather smaller than usual, there being fewer Germans and Italians present than in the preceding sales. The English trade was fully represented, as also French and American interests. The results must be considered as fairly satisfactory, taking into account the greatly increased quantities of goods offered and—as is usual at this time of the year—the indifferent quality and stale condition of many of the skins. The general state of trade caused by continual political unrest and the chaotic condition of some of the foreign exchanges necessarily led to a reaction from the high prices realised in the May sales. We have, therefore, to record a decline in the values of some of the staple articles and, on the other hand, slight advances in certain furs. Those articles which have declined should find a ready sale at the reduced prices, and with a clear political horizon and more seasonable weather a general improvement may be confidently hoped for. The comparison of prices is with those of April-May last.

Badgers.—American: A small collection; brought very high prices. Russian, unaltered. Bears.—Black declined 25 per cent.; brown and grizzly, unaltered; white, unaltered. Beaver declined 5 per cent. Civet cat unaltered. Chinchilla unaltered; ermine advanced 20 per cent.; fisher declined 25 per cent.; fitch unaltered. Foxes: Blue slightly higher; cross declined 10 per cent.; grey unaltered; red declined 15 per cent.; silver advanced 10 per cent.; white declined 5 per cent.; South American, best grades unaltered; all other sorts declined 20 per cent. White hare unaltered. Kolinsky unaltered. Lambs: Persian and broadtail, firm at last sale prices. Lynx, slightly higher. Martens: American, advanced 10 per cent.; baum, advanced 10 per cent.; stone, advanced 15 per cent. Mink, declined 15 per cent. Mole, declined 10 per cent. Monkey, no demand, withdrawn. Musquash, black, declined 25 per cent.; brown, declined 25 per cent.; Southern, declined 30 per cent. Nutria, unaltered. American opossum, fully last sale prices. Otter unaltered. Raccoon, fully last sale prices. Russian sable, firm at last sale prices. Skunk, a stale and poor collection; declined 30 per cent. Squirrel, declined 10 per cent.; many withdrawn. Wolf, best grades declined 15 per cent.; other grades declined 25 per cent. Wolferine, declined 10 per cent. Fur seals, no demand, all withdrawn.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date November 1:—

Currants.—We feel justified in writing with a certain degree of elation over the prices ruling to-day. Since our last issue the Greek exchange has become demoralised, enabling operators in that country to cable over reduced quotations, and at home our Press continuously reiterates reports concerning the extent of unemployment and the very poor outlook for trade. It is indeed remarkable that under such circumstances the decline in values is of small account and limited to the lower descriptions, best qualities having even appreciated. Such falling off as we have to record is entirely attributable to the variation in value of the respective currencies, and it is quite possible that had the drachma held up we might not have had to report any retrograde movement at all, as the short crop has, of course, a steadying influence on the market. Siptah and Jaffa, with about 2,300 tons for distribution, arrived about the middle of the month, and the better grades of Vostizza were readily sold at 66s. to 70s., and Panariti 55s. to 60s. A good demand was also in evidence for the lower grades:—Calamata, at 42s.; Pyrgos, 43s. to 44s.; Cleaned Amalias, 45s. to 46s.; Cleaned Patras and Gulf, 47s. to 49s.; Zante, 44s. to 45s. 6d.; Gulf, 47s. to 54s.; and Ordinary Vostizza, 56s. to 60s. Phrygia, Destro, and Tormod Bakkevig, with cargoes totalling 3,500 tons, only a portion of which was available for brokers' counters, commenced to discharge in the closing days of the month, the feature being the continued inquiry for Vostizza, which led to business in this growth being transacted at from 61s. to 63s. for good qualities, 66s. to 68s. for fine, up to 72s. for parcels of choicest shade dried. Closing quotations:—Pyrgos, 43s.; Amalias, 44s. to 45s.; Zante, 43s. 6d. to 45s. 6d.; Gulf and Panariti, 47s. to 57s.; Vostizza, 60s. to 72s. Australian currants—The Cornwall brought further supplies, and sales have been effected, 2 Crown 57s., 3 Crown 60s. to 61s.

Raisins.—Valencia: The season was inaugurated at a remarkably late date with the arrival of Calderon in the early days of October with only 8 tons quarter-boxes, realising 65s. A further supply of 250 tons was brought by Gunver and Pinzon, and with the appearance of these the reports of a poor-quality crop were fully confirmed, the bulk of the fruit being small and unattractive. Its reception by the trade was unequivocally disappointing, only the fine qualities, which were very scarce, being well competed for, sales being:—Half-boxes inferior, 50s. to 52s.; ordinary to good, 55s. to 58s.; quarter-boxes ordinary, 55s. to 57s. 6d.; good, 60s. to 70s.; and up to 75s. for fine. Later Pizarro brought some better lots, and buyers paying more attention to the article, brisk selling took place at improved rates. Half-boxes, 54s. to 58s.; quarters, 65s. to 70s.; good to fine, 75s. to 80s.; and choice up to 105s. Seedless: Common, 45s.; ordinary, 50s. to 52s. 6d.; choice, 75s. Cape fruit was disposed of as quickly as it came to hand, prices ranging 60s. good average, 45s. to 50s. for f.a.q., and 40s. for bags. Australian Lexias sold at 48s., and further quantities per Anchises are due next week.

Sultanas.—A fair amount of selling pressure was felt in the first week or so of the period under review, but a healthier state of affairs came into being in the latter portion, with a broadening demand and greater interest evinced by buyers for spot goods. The early estimate of 30,000 tons as the quantity likely to be marketed has now been reduced to 25,000 tons, and with prices advancing on the Smyrna market buying for forward delivery took place, good average cleaned in boxes moving from 32s. 6d. to 35s. c.i.f., and bags uncleaned from 27s. 6d. to 30s. c.i.f., and considerable business was put through at these rates. Cargoes dealt with on spot were (the figures representing boxes): Gerano, 58,000; Sea Glory, 27,000; Karnak, 40,000; Bavarian, 32,000—157,000 boxes—but barely half this aggregate was available for the market. Quality, colour, and condition were all good, and the fruit is of better size than previous arrivals. A fairly good demand existed from the outset, prices opening from 59s. to 65s. for ordinary to good, with fine up to 72s. 6d. Later, the desire to make progress was responsible for a decline in lower qualities to 54s., and some lines of good were forced off cheaply at 60s. On arrival of Bavarian, buyers realised how little was awaiting disposal, and with a revival of demand values again took an upward turn, fine grades especially feeling the better influence and advancing to 70s. to 80s. and up to 100s. for one parcel of fine bleached. Cleaned continued in good request throughout the month at from 60s. to 72s. Tyria, Grodno, Sitra, and Andalusian are due in a few days to replenish supplies. Very small quantities of Greeks have

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so far been shipped, the few that arrived per Siptah realising 60s. to 65s. Australian holders, realising that to compete with Turkey for a share of the business prices would have to be reduced to the parity of Smyrna fruit, decided to make concessions, 3 Crowns selling 65s., later reduced to 60s., closing sales 58s. Cape Bleached varieties cleared at 45s. Afghans—Small sales yellow, dry and free, 45s., and red variety 32s.

Figs.—The abnormal state of affairs existing in Smyrna has interfered with the packing of skeleton cases, therefore it is not surprising that prices have continued firm since the opening, and practically all sizes of layers and locoums are sold before the arrival of the steamers. The Gerano, Karnak, Siptah, and Bavarian were disposed of, viz.:—Large boxes, layers, 95s. to 110s.; small boxes, 100s. to 125s.; packets, 120s.; locoums, 130s. to 135s.; bags, naturals, 34s. to 42s. 6d.

AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS IN IRAK.

The Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the month ended September 15 gives the following particulars:—

There was a conspicuous fall in temperatures during the latter half of August. The relatively cool weather was beneficial to all summer crops other than dates. Live stock is in normal condition for this season when grazing is very scarce except in irrigated areas and on lands which were inundated during the floods.

Water for irrigation has, in general, been sufficient to meet the heavy demand at this season. Water rotation on the Yusufiyah Canal has worked fairly smoothly after the usual complaints when the scheme was first introduced. The closing of the Sirriyah breach near Fellujah has effected a marked improvement in the water supply on the Euphrates. It has been decided to close the Yusufiyah Canal for silt clearance with effect from October 7. This arrangement will be well suited for the cotton crop, but sowing of winter cereals may be delayed in the absence of good early rains. Large areas in the flooded Saklawiyah area are being cultivated after the chebis, or basin irrigation, method.

The delivery of cotton at the British Cotton Growing Association Ginnery, Baghdad, indicates a distinct advance in cotton cultivation. The total deliveries up to the end of the period under review were 221 tons. At least 1,000 bales (of 400 lb.) of raw cotton are estimated for current season. The bollworm attack is about normal, except in those cases where the crop has received an insufficient supply of water during July and August. In the latter case the bollworm destroys the majority of the young buds and flowers, which appear in very large numbers with the advent of cooler weather. Very heavy late pickings are anticipated. Cotton buying agencies have been arranged at Baghdad, Hillah, and the Dialah area. Many cultivators are holding their stocks of seed cotton in anticipation of a rise in price from the Rs.425 per ton now offered. Special interest attaches to the inquiries which are being received regarding the purchase and erection of pumping plant with which to cultivate cotton.

Wheat and barley threshing is nearing completion. In some areas the threshing has been considerably delayed pending the assessment of the crop in the stack. Prices of wheat and barley continue to fall in sympathy with world prices, but the export of last season's crop is making good progress. Wheat exports for year ended June 30, 1923, were 64,526 tons, and barley 126,214 tons—total, 190,740 tons. The July exports were 14,717 tons wheat and 6,178 tons barley—total, 20,895 tons. A threshing machine has been sent to the Mosul area for demonstration purposes.

The date crop has been adversely affected by the unusually cool weather which prevailed during the last half of August. Halawi and Khadhrawi varieties suffered most on this account. As previously reported, the Halawi crop is likely to be well below the average yield; this applies more particularly to the Abul Khasib area, whereas on the left bank of the Shatt-al-Arab the Halawi crop is expected to be about normal. The Khadrawi crop is expected to yield slightly heavier than last year. The yield of Sayer is expected to be above that of last season, except in the Abul Khasib area. The Zehdi crop, which is the latest maturing, is expected to be good throughout the date belt.

The reeling of silk in small lots by the Department of Agriculture continues. The Silk Inspector has demonstrated to local silk growers a method of washing their waste silk whereby the local price offered for it is increased from Rs.1/4 to Rs.10/- per kilo. The report of the Imperial Institute, London, has been received on samples of cocoons reared in Irak in 1922 and reeled in France. The report states that the "France" variety gave "the very best type of white silk fully equal to Cevennes silk"; and that the "Italy" variety gave a "fine silk of very brilliant colour, fully equal to the grade known as Italian Extra." Progress in silk development work will continue to be slow until a commercial silk filature has been established in Baghdad.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 653—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The incident arising from the attempted murder of the Yugoslav Military Attaché in Sofia is settled, and that is, after all, the main desideratum. It is a matter for regret that the Yugoslav Government did not set Signor Mussolini a good example instead of taking a leaf out of his book. Its demands included the rendering of formal apologies to the Yugoslav Legation by the Bulgarian Prime Minister and Minister of War and the saluting of the Yugoslav flag by a company of Bulgarian soldiers. The Sofia Government was called upon to make the utmost effort to discover the authors of the outrage, and the question of financial compensation was to be referred to The Hague Court. That these terms—or any others—would be accepted was a foregone conclusion. For the sake of good relations in the Balkans we could have wished that the ultimatum habit had on this occasion been checked. The Italian Government justified its harsh terms to Greece on the ground that it was persuaded that the murder of General Tellini was due to the connivance, if not to the actual instigation, of Greek officials; the Belgrade authorities could bring no such charge against Bulgaria. It would have been a fine gesture on the part of the former, and a useful contribution to the future peace of the Balkans, if they had waited to see what amends the Bulgarian Government proposed of its own accord to make.

Distracted Bulgaria.

The murder of M. Guenadieff, the assault on the Yugoslav Military Attaché, and now the death of M. Duparinoff, Minister of Justice in M. Stambolisky's Cabinet, who was killed while on his way under escort to Sofia, are indications of a distracted Bulgaria. Any of the explanations offered for the crimes may be right, or all may be wrong; but there can be no doubt that this trilogy of incidents points to a state of affairs in the country which must be seriously embarrassing to the Government. The Yugoslav ultimatum was harsh enough to reflect the original hostility of Belgrade to the present Cabinet in Bulgaria. There may be no justification for that hostility, in so far as it rests on the supposition that the Sofia Government of the day is less anxious than M. Stambolisky was for the establishment of cordial relations between the two countries; but the best way of winning Yugoslavia to a happier frame of mind is to be able to show a more or less general acceptance by the Bulgarian nation of the new régime. The Great Powers would appear to be satisfied as to the good intentions of the Zankoff Government, and it is a matter for regret that the latter has not been more successful in inspiring confidence in the people as a whole. The difficulties of the situation are apparent, and a way out is not easy to indicate until someone appears on the scene strong enough to proclaim a general amnesty and to start the country with a fresh political slate. Such a solution, however, presupposes a settlement of the Macedonian question, and that is impossible without the good will of Yugoslavia. So long as the Belgrade Government is content to shift all responsibility for Macedonian unrest on to Bulgaria the vicious circle is complete.

The Crisis in Greece.

The political situation in Greece shows an anomalous state of affairs. The Revolutionary Committee installed King George II. on the throne in place of King Constantine, but is credited with having hedged his position round with so many restrictions that under the Committee's ægis free scope has been given to the spread of Republican doctrines in the country. After the failure of the recent military insurrection a meeting of "elder statesmen" and others was called by the Government to discuss the relative merits of a monarchy and a republic for Greece, and an overwhelming verdict in favour of a monarchy was recorded. In spite of this rebuff, however, the agitation for a republic continues, and the Revolutionary Committee is showing itself sufficiently "detached" to enter into negotiations with the republicans with a view to effecting a compromise. At the courts-martial the insurgent officers have declared that the movement was purely a military one, designed "to calm passions in the army and to exclude politics from the army by the removal of all irreconcilable officers." General Leonardopoulos, the

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leader of the insurrection, disclaimed all connection with General Metaxas, whom he would not allow to join the insurgents at Corinth. It was evident from the sudden collapse of the movement that the Greek people as a whole had no part in it; and it is equally clear from the actions of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army and others that the Army and Navy are being used as forcing schools for politics.

The Need for Free Elections.

As far as the situation in Greece can be understood abroad, it would seem that the military are entirely in control, the people as a whole lying low and awaiting events. The danger of this position is that a *coup d'état* can very easily be carried out in one direction or another without reflecting the views of the nation. This is what happened last year, as the Revolutionary Committee has had time to discover. The only satisfactory remedy is to allow the people once more to take charge of their own destinies. The decision of M. Zaimis to take part in the coming elections will have revived the hope that he may yet be able to form a coalition Administration among moderate politicians, and thus allow the Revolutionary Committee to divest itself of its unconstitutional powers. Unfortunately the latter has shown a desire to keep control of the elections in a way that may possibly stultify the results in the eyes of foreign Governments, and if this should prove to be the case, the chance that Greece has of being able to extricate herself from her present political morass would seem to be a small one. It is to be hoped that better counsels will prevail, and that the Government will realise that only by scrupulously free elections can confidence at home and abroad be restored.

Turkey and the Khalifate.

The improbable report that the Khalif was on the point of abdicating has been formally denied. It was known to be quite contrary to His Majesty's intentions, and, coupled as it was with Press attacks on the Turkish Imperial family, could be regarded only as a *ballon d'essai* from Angora, where, no doubt, zealous extremists would like to see the republic still further rounded off with a few more posts in the hands of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. What the Nationalists are inclined to overlook is that the tendency to exploit domestic controversies can only prejudice the Kemalist Government in the eyes of the nation. Already owing to Cabinet changes a month has been lost in the negotiations over the Mosul question. Apologies have had to be made for dilatoriness in dealing with brigandage, and sooner or later failure to arrange for a foreign loan will create a situation that must play into the hands of the anti-Kemalists. It might be thought that the danger of going too far in interference with the Khalifate would have been appreciated in Angora. The so-called Khalifate agitation in India, no doubt, originated entirely from a desire to embarrass the British Government; but it has directed attention to a subject which previously aroused no interest among Mohammedans in India, and the machinery that it brought into operation might be utilised for a different purpose. If the Turkish Khalifate should lapse or suffer serious prejudice at the hands of Angora there is at least one other Moslem country which would be a candidate for the honour.

Politics in Roumania.

The recent reconstruction of the Roumanian Cabinet marked the end of a three weeks' crisis in the Liberal Party. From the changes effected in the Ministry it has to be inferred that the trouble arose over personal interests, and that any hopes raised in the country of a radical change in the Government's economic and financial policy are likely to be disappointed. One former Ministry has been partitioned into two portfolios, and two additional Under-Secretaries have been given to the Ministry of the Interior—a somewhat desperate action in the cause of party peace, it would appear, in view of the straitened condition of the national exchequer. It is noticeable that the reconstruction of the Cabinet has brought two of the Opposition leaders once more into the open. M. Maniu, head of the Transylvanian National Party, has created some stir by a reasoned attack on the Government's economic policy, in the course of which he endeavours to show the relationship of cause and effect between that policy and the cold shoulder which Roumania is supposed to have received from financial interests abroad. Although gradual modifications are being made in Roumania's economic policy, the main stumbling-block—insistence on the nationalisation of all industries essential to national defence, and the demand that in any such enterprises sixty per cent. of the capital and two-thirds of the board of directors should be Roumanian—remains, for it leaves untouched the main objection raised by foreign capital: that so often Roumanian control falls short of the standards regarded as essential to successful business in the West. The other Opposition leader, Professor Jorga, head of the National Democratic Party, has made an appeal for a coalition of the Opposition parties and offers to lead it, if called upon to do so.

Captious Criticism.

Critics of the new régime in Turkey, Egypt, and elsewhere do not improve their case by seizing upon every untoward incident as convincing evidence of an inability to make good. We confess to a feeling of scepticism when we found certain frauds perpetrated in the Egyptian railway administration cited as proof positive of a rapid deterioration resulting from the relaxation of British control. It now transpires that there has been no change in the railway administration, and that the frauds in question date back to July, 1922, when Egypt had not yet entered upon the enjoyment of her independence. What the critics overlooked in their anxiety to convict the new régime was that the railway administration has been an exception to the tendency of recent years in Egypt, before the new order was introduced, of increasing the number of English officials. The aim of the railway authorities has been steadily to train up the Egyptian staff to assume administrative responsibility, and if confidence has on occasion been shown to have been misplaced, it may mean nothing more than that Egyptians share the weaknesses of all human nature. The only fair attitude to adopt towards independent Egypt and independent Turkey is to give both time to find themselves, if they can. A standard of attainment may be set, and serious errors, when made, pointed out; but there is a great difference between this policy and an attitude of captious criticism which is inclined to emphasise mistakes that have no bearing on the main issue.

THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST ASSOCIATION.

Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen will preside at the dinner which is being given in honour of General Sir Charles Harington at the Savoy on Friday, November 23, by the Near and Middle East Association. Lady Edward Gleichen will hold a reception at half past seven o'clock and dinner will be at eight o'clock. A limited number of tickets (12s. 6d. each) may be obtained through members or from the secretary, Near and Middle East Association, 7, St. James's Terrace, Regent's Park, N.W. (Tel. Hampstead 5297).

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Armistice Day.

This year Armistice Day fell upon Sunday, and the two minutes' Silence was for the most part observed within church walls. One has come almost to think that the Silence is one of the finest products of the War: it leads so straightly back and so straightly forward. High above the politics and, generally speaking, perhaps, above the religion of our time, it floods the lives of this generation with all the piety of which they are capable. One feels that it must be an immortal institution, because it crystallises no particular cause, but only our thoughts for those who simply died for this country.

The Lord Mayor's Show.

On Friday we had the Lord Mayor's Show, and a very jolly business it was. Of course, it was not so good as it used to be—it never has been; but it does one enormous benefit to see it. There are always a few things to admire (this year, for instance, the Guards' bands and the Royal Air Force), others to laugh indulgently at, and others to be temporarily interested in. It is curious how unfailingly informed some Londoners have become upon these shows. People who would scorn to consult any programme (and who would look in pitying amazement at you if you happened to ask them who, for example, "the Worshipful Company of Loriners" might be) know everything that is coming next—ignorance of which is supposed to constitute the soul of romance. We all loved these shows when we were small, but it is not only because of that, I think, that we still like to see them. Even business men are romanticists and children at heart—you could tell that by the havoc that was played with business during the middle hours of Friday.

The General Election.

The election is coming, and the political geese are getting very fat. I am told that uneasiness always attacks the Stock Exchange at such times, although the present fall in Government securities is being ascribed to the fear of a Labour Government. But, apart from the doleful money-makers, people generally are, I believe, looking forward to the battle of wits. Very few men seem to be competent to discuss the main issue—Free Trade or Mr. Baldwin's plans (whatever they may be), so that the election is as likely as not to turn round persons rather than round policy.

Mr. Baldwin's opponents are very formidable. Not only is there the official Liberal Opposition—and how strong that is in this particular fiscal question is to be seen from the ease with which Mr. Asquith put holes through our Premier—but there are also the Lloyd Georges, the Churchills, and the rest. (When Lord Birkenhead takes his ear off the ground and stands up to speak his mind, or rather intention, it is possible that we shall know where he for the moment is. He ought to go with Mr. Lloyd George, but then it is not yet certain that Mr. George will be successful.)

Party Prospect.

The happiest party is probably the Liberal. On the question of Free Trade it is absolutely united, and there is, indeed, a possibility now of fusion between the "Independents" and the "Nationals." That they will of themselves be a power in the country after the election is, however, not to be imagined. The Labour people are at present working obscurely: their leaders are opposed to Mr. Baldwin's fiscal schemes, but it is said that the rank and file are divided. As for the Conservatives, they are hopelessly at sea: they have only just decided to hold the election this and not next year. Many of them, and a very intelligent section of them, are staunch Free Traders: they would like to see Mr. Baldwin returned, and then have a referendum on the Protection issue. How it will all pan out nobody seems able to guess. If it were not so undignified, the man of average intelligence would be inclined to follow Mr. Baldwin, mainly because he is without fear and without reproach. In the end, it may come rather to voting against somebody than for somebody else.

The Press is of not the slightest value in forming an opinion, because it has no views, but makes personal almost all the issues. Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Birkenhead are being loudly "stunted," but for the most part journals are sitting on the fence. One can only hope that for their pusillanimity they will tear their trousers (lose their readers) when they get down.

The Imperial Conference.

The Imperial Conference broke up last week with little *éclat*, and if one were suddenly asked for the sum of its accomplishment, one would be rather at a loss. Probably the most important things are being kept secret, because one cannot think that a Conference should have been summoned merely to propose to tax foreign raw apples, canned salmon, fruit juices, and honey. We have heard less than we should have liked to hear about its attitude on Continental political and economic problems, on Imperial defence, and so on. Possibly a sufficient degree of unanimity could not be secured.

Lord Birkenhead.

If there were in Great Britain any public sense and judgment, the chances of Lord Birkenhead's returning to political power would be absolutely nil. He has just delivered a rectorial speech at the University of Glasgow which is not only offensive and nauseating to a people moulded and sometimes battered by war, but in essence is also un-English. The new Rector spoke on "Idealism in International Politics." He had no difficulty in demolishing the pacifists, but he proceeded also to inveigh universally against "idealists" as impracticable opponents of the only safe guide to conduct—self-interest. In other words, Lord Birkenhead is

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a Prussian: one cannot otherwise describe his lamentable case.

Naturally and at once his speech was everywhere assailed. In the Press, in private conversation, and in the pulpit, one saw and heard protests on the use by this suave impostor of such Potsdam phrases as "glittering prizes," "stout hearts and sharp swords," "bright eyes," and "Imperial destiny." Possibly in other generations the speech would have done; we, however, know too well the dreadful hollowness of his words. Lord Birkenhead is so ignorant of our time as to confuse "realism" with the truth; he neglects the fact, which is always being proved, that only among the idealists is the ultimate, or at least the impelling, truth to be found. Realism in politics can no more than realism in art touch the truth.

It is rather sickening that a man can at this time be at all found—and especially one of the ability of Lord Birkenhead—to utter such dangerous puerilities; but if his speech proves in the end to foil Lord Beaverbrook's apparent plan to make him Premier. we shall not have suffered his monstrous statement in vain.

The Beggar's Opera.

Although it was not long ago that I recorded an improvement in the state of our theatre, many of the better plays seem now to have disappeared, and we appear rather to have relapsed to our former very mediocre state. But the news that "The Beggar's Opera," after a run of incredible length, was at last to be taken off, sent me at once, for the *n*th time to Hammersmith. Again the old enchantment seized one, the exquisite and chortling tunes, the very beautiful orchestration, the wit of Gay, the setting of Lovat Fraser, and so on. There is really no reason, bar its excellence and the fact that actors are human, that the opera should not last for ever. But an end is coming, just before Christmas; and to have approached so nearly the record of "Chu Chin Chow" is in any case an event to make history. One wonders how the people of this generation who have not heard Ranalow as Macheath can possibly find an excuse to future times for their remissness. It is possible that we may discover some subsequent solace at the Lyric in Shakespeare and Congreve.

Domestic Servants.

For a brief hour or two recently we were startled by the newspapers out of our habitual Reparations-Protection reverie with the publication of a Commission's report on the question of domestic service. Even into the lives of servants, it seems, the blessed question of "status" has poked its horrid head. Young ladies, it would appear, do not mind entering into domestic service so long as they are not called by the name generally given to them. It is all very footling, of course, because the servant far more often works with her mistress than unprofitably for her, and with tact on both sides the question of an obnoxious "inferiority" does not arise. But, since the thing is so, and the modern girl will not have at any price the signs and symbols of what she calls servitude, the fact must be recognised; human kindness and common-sense will always find a way out of these things. No doubt domestic servants are to have, and indeed, should have, more freedom than they had in the past; they will discover soon enough that indulgence in what they call "a good time" (the passing craze of the present generation) is a wearying game. Alter Ego.

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BALKAN MEN AND WAYS.

An interesting exhibition of paintings and woodcuts has just been held at the Gieves Art Gallery, Old Bond Street, called "Balkan Men and Ways," by Mr. Gausden. Mr. Gausden visited Bosnia after the War, and was obviously fascinated by the scenery and the peasant types there. His methods are either directly imitative or formalised, and the result, if sometimes a little crude, is always vital. Of his "natural" studies, his paintings of "A Gypsy," "Arza," "Baba the Witch," and "Zakija" on the one hand, and "Winter in the Valley," "A Winter Market, Vlasenica," "Sarajevo—in the Turkish Quarter," and "The Last Corner of the Han Pesak Road," are admirable examples. Readers of The Near East should be particularly interested in a commanding representation of Miss Macphail. In the woodcuts there is the same successful vitality, especially in the ones upon Ragusa, Mostar, and Vlasenica.

PICTURES OF GREECE.

Belonging to a very different art were the water-colour drawings of Spain and Greece, exhibited at Walker's Galleries by Miss Mary Hogarth. They are delicate, suggestive, almost a little timid. In essence they are drawings; colour is rather fitfully and not always happily applied. But in the architectural studies, for instance, there is considerable skill shown: "The Church of St. Theodore, Athens," "The Parthenon," "The City from Lycabettus," for example, all manifest intelligence and restraint. Perhaps it is the lack of atmosphere that to a certain extent robs her pictures of interest, but if she prefers the actual to the real, then it is folly to complain.

"THE WORLD'S ART SERVICE."

We have received from Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Sons specimens, under the name of "The World's Art Service," of their new collection of Christmas and New Year cards, postcards, calendars, gift books, toy books, painting books, pictures, and so on. Of first interest, naturally, are the Christmas cards, of which this firm has prepared a wonderful variety. They contain many topical series, such as "Ancient Egypt," "Sunny East," and "Broadcasting." Picture postcards of beautiful design abound, but probably the most artistic production for this year is the series of original etchings, with each copy numbered and signed by the artist. Close in merit to these, and as certain to be popular, is the collection of over 500 calendars, which are not only useful but often fascinating.

It is stated that the International Time Tables Conference has decided to reduce by four and a-half hours the journey from Paris to Bucharest, and by three hours the journey from Paris to Athens.

At the request of the Anglican and Eastern Churches' Association, a Solemn Requiem Liturgy "for the repose of the souls of our Christian brethren who lost their lives in Russia and Turkey during and since the war" was celebrated at the Church of St. Magnus the Martyr, near London Bridge, on November 13.

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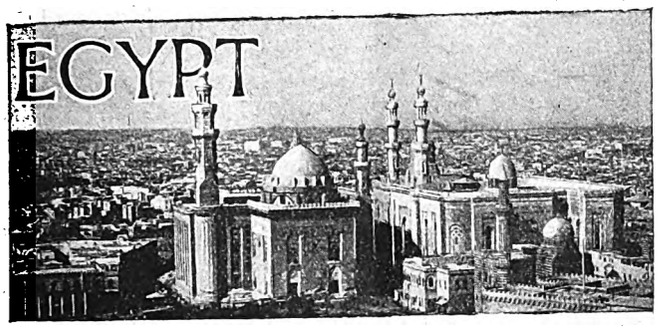
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 4.

The Election Campaign.

After a period of comparative inaction, the various political parties have resumed electioneering in earnest. The Wafd has nearly completed its choice of candidates, and in this respect is considerably in advance of its rivals, who are taking the elections in much more leisurely spirit. However, even the Liberal Constitutionals have begun to show signs of life, and meetings have been held by the Party in Cairo, Assiut, and other provincial centres. Practically the whole of the Wafd executive is on tour in Upper Egypt and the Delta, and, to believe the Zaghloulist papers, the delegates are meeting with enthusiastic receptions everywhere. On the other hand, the enforced inactivity of Zaghloul Pasha, who, although now able to resume some part of the direction of the affairs of his party, is still far from being completely restored to health, is a great loss to the Wafd, and is robbing the election campaign of much of the sparkle with which it would be marked were the *Raiss el Galeel* able to lead the attack in person. It is to be hoped that his convalescence will not be a long one, and that before the date of the elections proper he will have been restored to his old vigour. Meanwhile the Nationalists are continuing their very dubious propaganda. The suspension of their organ *Al Lewa* was recorded in my letter of last week, and since then the independent newspaper *Al Ahram* has received a formal warning as a result of the publication of a poem dealing with the funeral of the late Prince Abdel Kader, in which there were references to the present régime in this country which the Government considered calculated to bring the Government and especially the Throne into contempt. These two instances of administrative action against the Press have led to animated discussions among the journalists of the country, and there has been much talk of the formation of a Press syndicate, a body which has been frequently proposed, but has never been formed because of the inability of the proprietors and editors to sink their personal differences, even when it is a question of protecting the interests of the profession as a whole. However, the discussions have led to action in the shape of a deputation to the Prime Minister, who assured his visitors that the last thing in the world that he wished to do was to restrict in any way the freedom of the Press; but that in the cases in question, where the present occupant of the Throne had been affronted, there had been no other course open to the Government than that which had been taken. With this point of view most people entirely agree.

Tourist Season Prospects.

The hotels and everybody else connected with the tourist industry are jubilant about the coming winter, which is expected to be by far the best, in point of numbers of visitors, that Egypt has known since 1914. There is even talk of a "record" season, but this is obviously impossible, for the country cannot now accommodate anything approaching the number of tourists who were here in pre-War winters. In Cairo alone three big hotels—the Angleterre, the Savoy, and the Gezira Palace—which before the War accommodated between them close on a thousand visitors, are now converted into Government offices or business establishments, and the extensions made to the other hotels, although considerable, have not replaced half the accommodation which has been diverted to other uses. Last winter there was a period when all available accommodation was taken up, but it did not last for long, and it seems that this season will be much the same. As for Upper Egypt, the fact that the Upper Egypt Hotels Company is again this year only opening two of its three Luxor hotels and only one of its three Assouan hotels is sufficient proof that, although times may be good, there is still ample room for improvement. Assouan, more than any other place in Egypt, has suffered heavily from the War. The Savoy Hotel has never been reopened since 1914, and the Cataract, with accommodation for 350 visitors, has never, since 1914, held more than 150 at a time. Prospects for this year at the Cataract are better than last winter, and the decision of the State Railways to run a night service with sleeping and dining cars, between Luxor and Assouan, should help the most charming winter resort in Egypt, for hitherto it has been the appalling day-long journey from Luxor which more than anything else has deterred visitors with limited time at their disposal from proceeding farther south.

The Railway Scandal.

The embezzlement in the season ticket department of the State Railway administration continues to excite much comment, and the sum involved is now stated to amount to £E70,000. The

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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wanted man, a Coptic clerk named Guindi Antonius, has not yet been found, and a reward of £E100 has been offered for information regarding his whereabouts. Considerable resentment has been aroused among Egyptians by the comments on the affair of local correspondents of London newspapers. Their dispatches, attributing the fact that the embezzlement was possible owing to the discontinuance of British supervision, have been cabled back to the local newspapers, and have caused much indignation, for which there seems to be a good deal of justification. After all, such thefts have been known even in British Government departments, besides which, whether or not the embezzlement in question has been going on, as has been stated, for four or five years, thus dating back to a period when British control was undisputed, there seems to be no doubt that the system which has made such wholesale robbery possible was of British institution. In addition, there is the fact that the railways are still controlled by British personnel to a greater extent than any other department of the Egyptian Government.

The Fahmy Case Again.

Another incident where local journalists seem to have been all at sea has been the alleged return to this country of Madame Marguerite Fahmy. The hare seems to have been started by the Italian news agency reporting the lady's embarkation on the s.s. Esperia at Trieste. Previous experience of the Italian agency's reports would, it might have been supposed, have induced caution in accepting the news, but in this instance it seems to have served merely as a spur to the imagination, for the lady's arrival at Alexandria was duly chronicled. In the end it appears that Madame Fahmy has never left Paris, and the journalists who worked the "scoop" are left to find excuses for their too intelligent anticipation.

BULGARIA.

Sofia, November 6.

The Assault on Colonel Christitch.

On the evening of Friday, November 2, three men broke into the apartment of Colonel Christitch, the Yugoslav Military Attaché. After wounding his soldier servant, the men came into contact with Christitch himself. Two of them immediately fled, but the third levelled a revolver at the Colonel's head. The revolver failed to go off, and a hand-to-hand struggle then ensued. The Colonel proved the stronger, but, being partly blinded by a blow he had received, was unable to capture his assailant, who escaped into the street. No trace of the three men has yet been discovered.

Many theories have been advanced as to the motives underlying this somewhat curious assault. Only two of them would seem worthy of attention, the first being that the assault was provocative and carried out by Communists or Agrarians, and, secondly, that it was Macedonian. In both cases the object of the attack must have been the same—to create bad feeling between Bulgaria and Serbia. The Government believe that it was due to the Communists or Agrarians, but up to the present they hold no proof. The official Serbian view is that it was due to Macedonians, but here again there is no proof.

The Yugoslav Note.

On Monday morning the Yugoslav Minister, M. Rakitch, presented to M. Kalfoff a Note from Belgrade. After referring to the provocative nature of the crime, the Note insists that M. Zankoff, the Prime Minister, and General Vulkoff, the Minister of War, shall respectively present apologies to the Yugoslav Minister and Military Attaché. A company of two hundred and fifty soldiers will salute the Yugoslav flag. The Bulgarian Government will take all possible steps to capture the assailants. Finally, if any financial indemnity is asked for, it will be for The Hague Tribunal to fix the amount. Forty-eight hours, expiring at mid-day to-morrow, November 7, are given for a reply; failing an acceptance, the Yugoslav Government more or less reserves the right of liberty of action.

The whole incident, although much less serious than the murder of General Tellini, corresponds very closely to the Italian-Greek crisis during September. The general public here is not yet aware of the contents of the Serbian Note, so it would be premature to state the effect it will have on the country. Nevertheless, one can say with a certain amount of assurance that the Note will be accepted because there is nothing else to be done. At the same time, the rendering of honours by a company of soldiers will, I feel sure, be greatly resented as being both uncalled for and humiliating.

M. Guenadieff Murdered.

Last week also saw the assassination of Dr. Nicolas Guenadieff, a former Foreign Minister, and the ablest barrister in Bulgaria. Guenadieff was shot through the head whilst walking home from his club; with him at the time was M. Gueshoff, formerly Minister at Berlin. M. Gueshoff was wounded, but not seriously. Public opinion believes that Guenadieff was murdered by a man of his own party who resented his recent cession from the National Liberals. Quite recently Guenadieff had formed his own group, which had the prospect of becoming a not unimportant political factor. Guenadieff was well known abroad, especially in France, and his death has been universally deplored.

The Elections.

In less than a fortnight General Elections will be held. Broadly speaking, there may be said to be three political parties—the Governmental Democratic Union, the National Liberals, and the Agrarian-Communistic *bloc*. In certain places the Agrarians and the Communists are separate, but for the greater part these two parties have joined

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hands. Public interest is not greatly aroused over the elections. Everyone believes that the Government will secure a huge majority, probably 200 seats out of 246. Still, it will be a good thing for the Sobranye to reassemble again after being closed for nearly six months. Much legislation has to be got through, and amongst other things, reparations have to be discussed.

The Allies' Claim.

At present the Inter-Allied Commission at Sofia are beginning to negotiate with a view to securing the costs of the Allied Army of Occupation in 1918-1920. The Bulgarian Government do not agree that Bulgaria, Varna excepting, was ever occupied in a military sense. It is, however, on the Armistice that Bulgaria bases her argument, and the Treaty of Neuilly took the place of the Armistice. The Allies in any case are determined to maintain that Bulgaria was militarily occupied. Various sums are mentioned as being the total which the Allies intend to demand. I believe a sum of approximately 5½ million sterling will ultimately be found to be correct. But it is very doubtful whether Bulgaria can pay such a sum, and it is more than probable that the Allies will allow the Commission to negotiate with a view of fixing an amount within Bulgaria's capacity.

The Yugoslav-Bulgarian Conference.

With the decision of the Yugoslav Government to accept 300 million levas as an indemnity for requisitions carried out in Serbia during the War, the Yugoslav-Bulgarian Conference can be considered at an end. Half the 300 million levas will be paid in cash, and the other half in coal and wheat. M. Novakovitch, the Yugoslav delegate, has, it is understood, shown great tact and diplomacy throughout the whole Conference, and it is largely owing to him that an agreement has been reached.

The Drought.

It is now three months since rain has fallen at Sofia, and the authorities are becoming apprehensive of a water shortage. For some time water has been cut off during the day, but it is now announced that it may be cut off for twenty-three hours out of twenty-four. Bulgaria has, indeed, had a most wonderful autumn, but the lack of rain is not conducive to good health and cleanliness. Sofia streets, which were never well kept, have, as a result of the drought, become dirtier and dirtier. The municipal authorities always advance the same excuse for the bad condition in which the capital is maintained. They plead lack of money. Many of the friendliest critics reply that it is lack of organisation, coupled with a desire to spend too much time talking rather than working.

General News.

After having spent three months at Varna, King Boris returned to Sofia on November 4.

The British Minister, the Hon. W. A. F. Erskine, returned to Sofia from England on November 3.

Later.

Yugoslavia and Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian Government have sent a Note to Yugoslavia, complying with all the latter's conditions. The Note points out, however, that Yugoslavia demanded the humiliation of a nation before the Bulgarian Judiciary Inquiry had terminated. (There is no doubt that the state of disarmament in which Bulgaria finds herself at present renders her the target of all and sundry who desire to impose their will on her.)

IRAK.

Baghdad, October 31.

Political Apathy.

General politics are again under a cloud, and but little interest is being taken in them. Nothing is now heard of the elections, which appear to be completely somnolent at the moment. The zeal and energy which were shown by the politically minded classes in Baghdad and the out districts when they first began has failed to survive the strain of a protracted election campaign. Opinion is growing that many months will elapse before the Assembly actually meets. Interest in politics may, however, be roused up again as a result of the publication of the draft Organic Law, which is now appearing in instalments in the local vernacular Press; but as only part of the law has yet appeared, it has not had time to evoke criticism or more than a passing interest.

Mosul.

Meanwhile events have tended to rivet attention on Mosul. The King has visited the division and toured some of the northern Kurdish qadhas, and the High Commissioner has followed him, and is still in Mosul. The visit of the King to the Kurdish qadhas should do good. He had never been there before, and but few of the Kurds had had an opportunity of meeting him. If he has now come into closer contact with the leading Kurdish aghas, there is every reason to hope that his attractive personality will have made a good impression on them, and gone some way towards reconciling them to union with Irak.

Mosul, Irak and Britain.

The High Commissioner, in a speech made to a meeting of the principal persons of the division, said the main reason of his visit was to make some attempt to reassure the people of Mosul regarding their future, and to allay the apprehensions of those who feared that Great Britain might sooner or later leave them unprotected and defenceless. He assured them that they need have no fears on that score. Great Britain would stand by Irak to see that the frontiers of the young State were such as could be defendable, and to obtain such a frontier it was necessary that Mosul should be included within the borders of Irak. The arguments put forward by Lord Curzon at

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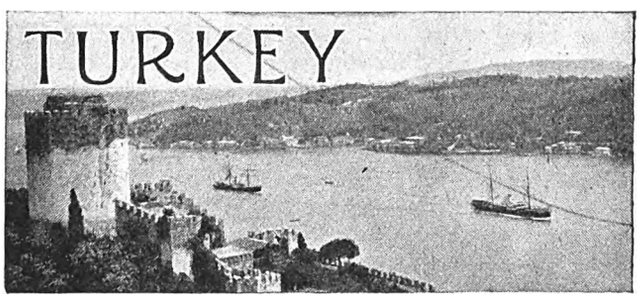
Lausanne were convincing and unanswerable, and he felt sure that they would suffice to win Irak's case before the League of Nations in the event of failure by Great Britain and Turkey to reach an agreement within the appointed time. As to the fear that Mosul would at the end of the present Treaty be left defenceless, he declared that when the present Treaty expires Great Britain would be willing, if the Irak Government so desired, to prolong and renew the friendship already existing, on such terms as the altered circumstances of the time might demand, and assured them that Irak might rely on the friendship of Great Britain in the future as in the past.

Jaafar Pasha at Mosul.

Jaafar Pasha al Askeri has been appointed Mutasarrif of Mosul and commander of the Iraki troops there, a position practically equivalent to that of a military governor. What the reason for this action is is not known, but there is little doubt that the appointment will be welcomed in Mosul, for Jaafar Pasha is one of the most popular and, at the same time, among the most efficient of the Irak officials. Nuri Pasha Said now becomes Minister of Defence—an appointment in which he has officiated ever since the departure of Jaafar Pasha for London some months ago. Rashid Bey al Khoja, hitherto Mutasarrif of Mosul, becomes Mutasarrif of Baghdad, a post which he held before going to Mosul.

The History of Irak.

On October 29 Professor Clay, of the American School of Archæology in Baghdad, gave a lecture at the Irak Military Officers' Club on the history of Irak as revealed by the excavations which have already been made. A large audience listened to an interesting lecture which covered a wide area, and gave a clear insight into the work which has already been performed. In particular, Professor Clay gave a brief sketch of life in Babylon at the time of King Hammurabi, the great law-giver.



Constantinople, October 30.

Resignation of the Government.

The Government has resigned. The only possible explanation of its action is the fact that it has at last recognised that it is too weak to carry on. Everybody else had recognised the fact some time ago, but it has been driven home to the office-holders during the past two or three weeks by the outburst of modesty on the part of those members of the Assembly whose names have been put up for election to the numerous vacancies which have been created for one reason or another on the Ministerial bench. The most prominent feature of the Government's short life of two and a half months has been the defection of one after another of its more prominent members or supporters. Its accomplishments may be summed up in two proposals—and merely proposals which have not yet been translated into action—*i.e.*, the suppression of brigandage and the improvement of the lot of officers and ex-officers. As for the questions of the establishment of the capital at Angora, and the elaboration and legalisation of the Republican régime, the former is supposed to be decided, but may be changed again to-morrow, and the latter, we have the unimpeachable authority of the official Anatolian Agency for stating, is merely in the earliest stages of discussion in the secret (?) meetings of the People's Party.

The Country's Need.

The trouble has been that ever since the convocation of the second National Assembly the tail has been trying to wag the dog, the tail being the mass of mediocre, ill-educated, narrow-minded deputies who are supposed to represent the soul of the enlightened Turkish democracy, and the dog being the few capable and experienced public men who have kept in the shadow or retired from official life until times should be more propitious. It becomes more obvious every day that what this country needs is a master, and it does not much matter who or what he is, whether Sultan or Mustapha Kemal, as long as he knows what he wants, has the power to get what he wants, and wants the same thing consistently for more than a week or two on end.

The inexperience, vacillation, and inefficiency of the central administration has led to the indefensible extension of the action of lower executive authorities, such as the police, which is called upon to take decisions on matters for which its personnel is obviously unfitted. When they commit an obvious *gaffe*—which is probably not their fault—the higher administrative authorities have to step in and reverse the action of their subordinates. It is not too much to say that the whole country is being administered to-day by a few rule-of-thumb maxims evolved on the spur of the moment by the very junior officials who are personally brought into contact with the practical difficulties as they arise.

At the moment of writing it is not known what will be the constitution of the new Cabinet. There is a strong feeling in certain circles in favour of the dissolution of the Assembly and new unfettered elections. That appears dangerous as likely to hold up public business for months, and possibly to lead to disorder. What would do more than anything to restore confidence would be a frank reconciliation between Mustapha Kemal and half a dozen of the admittedly capable, experienced men of affairs, irrespective of party, and sincere collaboration between them, with the object of cleaning up the appalling administration of the country. Impartial commonsense is wanted, and not half-assimilated theoretical shibboleths with a strain of Muscovite ancestry.

The New Constitution.

The announcement of the proclamation of the Republic and the election of Mustapha Kemal as its first President must be regarded as the first solid result of the situation created by the resignation of the Cabinet, and the fundamental organisation of the Republican State, as published in to-day's papers, appears to give promise of greater fixity and stability. The main points of the new Constitution are :—

(1) The sovereignty of the people under a Republican form of government.

(2) The State religion is Islam, and the official language Turkish.

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(3) The administrative authority is the Grand National Assembly acting through the Departments of State.

(4) The President of the Republic is chosen by the Assembly from among its members for one session. The retiring President is eligible for re-election.

(5) The President of the Republic is the Head of the State, and as such presides over the Assembly and the Cabinet when he considers it necessary.

(6) The Prime Minister is chosen by the President and the members of the Cabinet by the Prime Minister from among the deputies, and the names of the Cabinet Ministers as a whole are submitted to the Assembly for approval.

It will be realised that the principle of corporate Cabinet responsibility is admitted, and that the possibility of gratuitous interference by the Assembly in the work of the executive departments is considerably reduced, especially as it is provided that the Assembly will sit for only four months in each year. The settlement of this question is particularly *à propos* at this moment, for the list of names proposed by the People's Party for the new Cabinet is reported not to satisfy the new President. Now, under the new Constitution, he is entitled to arrange for the nomination of the men of his own choice.

General Events.

Apart from the constitutional question, other affairs of relatively great importance have held the floor during the past week. The heavily advertised incident at Erivan, where the Turkish representative to the "Free State" of Armenia was treated by a mob in a very hostile manner, has raised in a delicate form the whole question of Turkey's relations with the component States of the Russian Confederacy. The appointment of a Turkish representative to Erivan, in addition to their Ambassador in Moscow, was antecedent to the decision of Moscow to be responsible for the foreign relations of all the States of the Union of Soviet Republics, but his maintenance there was equivalent to a declaration by Angora that Turkey does not recognise the oneness and indivisibility of Russia. Turkey's suspicions concerning Russian designs on the Eastern Vilayets and her own cherished dreams of getting Batoum and Baku do not make for cordial relations with her great neighbour. Hence the pother.

Negotiations are taking place in Constantinople between representatives of the U.S.A. and of the Turks with the object of settling the matter of compensation to American citizens and interests for damage and loss caused during the War, and for concluding a convention regularising the relations between the Turkish State and American citizens and charitable organisations under the new conditions created by the Treaty of Lausanne.

November 6.

Policy Foreign and Domestic.

The new Government is safely installed, and is settling down to work. Information concerning its activities and policy is more or less confined to the realm of foreign affairs, for, since it now appears that the form of the Turkish Government is definitely fixed, the various neutral States are taking active steps to put their diplomatic relations with Turkey on a regular footing. Conferences are going on in Constantinople between Dr. Adnan Bey and representatives of the Americans and of the Austrians; in Angora, too, some *démarches* have been made in the same direction by the Hungarians and the Bulgarians.

With reference to the internal policy of General Ismet's Cabinet, it is too early to make any pronouncement. The introductory declarations of policy made by the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior are too vague and stereotyped to be worth discussion. They both say they are going to inaugurate a campaign of hard work for the good of the country, but so did the last Cabinet. The real crux of the situation lies in the question whether they have the politically articulate part of the country behind them or against them.

The Government and the People.

A survey of the Turkish Press comments during the past week gives the impression that the local political pundit is not going to be led into facile enthusiasm over the Government's change of name until he is convinced that it signifies a change of heart. He points out with emphasis that, to judge from the composition of the new Cabinet, which is almost identical with the previous one, Ismet is merely Fethi writ large; and, further, he wants to know, with regard to the position of Mustapha Kemal, whether he has actually quitted the presidency of the People's Party or not. The significance of this question is important. The opposition is delicately bringing to the fore the constitutional principle as to the legality of the change in the form of government by suggesting that the change was operated by one of several political parties, whereas it can be legalised only by the consent of a constituent Assembly representing the whole nation. This point was brought up in the Assembly during the debate and naturally decided by the Assembly in favour of its own competence. There is no doubt, however, that the Opposition in emphasising this point is endeavouring to queer the pitch of the Government by sowing doubt in the minds of foreign Governments as to the legal status of the change, and thus preventing the present Cabinet from entering into such combinations as will help Turkey out of her serious economic embarrassment and her dangerous political isolation.

The Russian Refugees.

Notwithstanding the official provincialism of Constantinople there is a good deal going on here. One burning question which has long been in suspense has been the disposal of the few remaining Russian refugees, numbering about 7,000. As a result of protracted negotiations between Mr. Childs, the representative of the League of Nations, and the Turkish Government, it has been decided by the latter to allow these people to stay in Turkey and provide them with special passports from the Government mentioning their status. This solution does the Turkish Government credit both from the practical and the humanitarian point of view. The forcible repatriation of these people to Russia might have very unpleasant consequences for them, and, on the other hand, many of them might render considerable service to Turkey in her work of reconstruction owing to their technical proficiency in various trades and professions. The decision is also bound to affect the destiny of an excellent British institution—the British Schools for Russian Boys and Girls, which are located in the Constantinople area. These schools, which have been giving a sound non-political Russian education to the refugee children of all classes, who, it is hoped, will eventually become useful citizens of Russia, have been seriously hampered lately by doubts as to whether they would be allowed to carry on their work in the new Turkey. Presumably now that the major

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question has been decided in favour of the refugees, the schools will be able to continue as long as they conform to the laws of the country.

Commercial Stagnation.

The commercial stagnation in this town with the evils attendant thereon shows no sign of abating; *au contraire*. A local paper bluntly says that the principal cause is to be found in the ill-considered general regulations which emanate from Angora just at the moment when the greatest calm and stability are required in order to readjust the delicate economic machinery, which is more or less out of gear. The economic régime of pre-War and Armistice times has been abolished by the Treaty of Lausanne, and nobody knows what is going to replace it; the regulations prescribing the ostracism from business houses of Christian employees on whose innate capacity for affairs these houses have principally depended, have upset the internal organisation of business; the mobilisation of four classes of recruits is estimated to be equivalent to the withdrawal of 30,000 to 40,000 young men, a considerable number of whom will be drawn from the clerk class, who will find it absolutely impossible to raise the five hundred pounds Turkish necessary to purchase exemption; the prohibition edict and uncertainty regarding the future of the Trade—all these circumstances are making for hesitation and causing merchants to carry on a hand-to-mouth policy.

A good example of the possibilities at the present time is the incident of the Pera Palace Hotel, which is known to all visitors as one of the only two really first-class hotels in Constantinople. There has long been a dispute between the owner of the hotel and the Government over a question of unpaid taxes on the owner's general business during the War period. The hotel is now seized as security for the indebtedness, but the authorities, instead of putting in a controller and letting the hotel carry on business, proceed to convert it into a useless white elephant by giving the visitors and staff two or three days' notice to quit, and then sealing up the premises. A more inane proceeding cannot easily be imagined.

Another factor which acts as a drag on any business enterprise is the uncertainty about the future movements of the Turkish exchange. There is a widespread idea on the Galata market that the Turkish currency must depreciate in the near future owing to the small quantity of available exports, thanks to the poor harvest and the condition of the Smyrna fruit trade. Meanwhile, Constantinople must continue to be fed very largely from abroad, and the necessity of placing large grain orders abroad, chiefly in America, at this season of the year has in previous post-War years played a part in causing a break in the Turkish exchange. According to the wise men, this year the break is overdue, but this may be attributed to the fact that some sort of negotiations are going on between Russian grain exporters and Turkish merchants for a large supply from Russia. If such a deal comes off, it may have an important influence on the course of exchange for an appreciable time.

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Constantinople Now.

The aspect of the town has considerably changed since the departure of the Allied forces. Apart from occasional official displays of flags the normal appearance is drab and dull, and there seems to be a complete lack of animation in the faces and the movements of the people in the streets and public resorts. Some of the Army's favourite resorts are still carrying on, but they are mere shadows of their former selves, partly on account of the disappearance of their best clients, and partly owing to the cramping influence of prohibition. G.H.Q. at Harbie still looks a little strange with its big Turkish flag and constant *va-et-vient* of Turkish officers and men. A few days ago the military authorities reopened the military school in its old home with due ceremony and speechifying. The new commander of the school is reported to have delivered himself of the amazing statement that the reopening of the school had been somewhat delayed by the fact that their enemies had intentionally taken away and scattered the furniture and appointments, and that the object of the Allies in choosing that building as G.H.Q. had been to paralyse the work of educating the Turkish officer, and thus to compromise the future of the Turkish army. No comment is necessary for any of your readers who may have seen the condition of that building when it was taken over by the British Salonika force in the month of November, 1918.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

The appointment of Captain Cecil John Hoskins to be H.M. Vice-Consul at Duzdap, Baluchistan, has been notified in the *London Gazette*.

Mr. N. G. Davidson has been appointed Counsellor on the Staff of the High Commissioner for Irak. Mr. Davidson has acted as Legal Secretary to the High Commissioner since 1922, and spent fourteen years in the judicial branch of the Sudan Administration before going to Irak.

The Council of Manchester University have appointed the Rev. John Nicol Farquhar, M.A., D.Litt. Oxford, as Professor of Comparative Religion. Dr. Farquhar joined the staff of the London Missionary Society College at Calcutta in 1891, and since 1902 has been Literary Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. of India.

Dr. Andrew Balfour, who has been appointed by the Transitional Executive Committee to be Director of the London School of Hygiene, was formerly Director of the Wellcome Tropical Research Laboratories at Khartoum. While in the Sudan he also acted as Medical Officer of Health at Khartoum and Sanitary Adviser to the Sudan Medical Department. In the Great War he was a member of the Medical Advisory Committee for the Mediterranean War Area, and then president of the Medical Advisory Committee in Mesopotamia.

The following have been selected by Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor-Designate of Bombay, and will form his staff in India:—

Mr. C. G. Adam, I.C.S., Private Secretary; Major H. G. Vaux, C.I.E., M.V.O., Military Secretary; Lieutenant-Colonel G. J. Grafton Young, I.M.S., Surgeon; Captain G. S. Rawstorne, M.C., Seaforth Highlanders, Captain W. W. Benyon, 4th Hussars, Captain J. A. Lynch, 14th Punjabi Regiment, and Lieutenant K. E. Previté, Royal Marines, A.D.C.'s.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 15 (New Style).
November 2 (Old Style).
Rabia II. 5, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 7, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Helen Brocklehurst has left London for Khartoum.

The Maharaja Jam Sahib of Navanagar has left for India.

Mr. James Corrigan left London last week for Paris *en route* for India.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru is returning to India to-day in the P. and O. s.s. Macedonia.

Fathollah Khan Noury, First Secretary at the Persian Legation, has returned to London from Teheran.

Lady Stevenson expects to join the P. and O. s.s. Dongola at Marseilles on November 23 *en route* for Port Said.

Lady Buchanan and Sir Henry and Lady Burt left London last Friday in the P. and O. s.s. Macedonia for Bombay.

Sir Jagadis and Lady Bose, who arrived from the Continent last week, are staying at the Artillery Mansions, Victoria Street.

Sir George Lloyd, the retiring Governor of Bombay, is leaving for England on December 8, two days before his successor, Sir Leslie Wilson, is due to arrive.

The Maharaja of Alwar and staff left London on November 12 for Paris, whence they will proceed to Marseilles, and embark in the mail steamer Macedonia to-morrow.

Sir Reginald Ford left by the Balmoral Castle last Friday for India via Cape Town, Rhodesia, and Beira. His future address will be care of the Dunlop Rubber Company, Bombay.

Among the guests entertained at dinner by Sir Dorabji and Lady Tata in the Carlton Restaurant last Thursday were the Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar, the Maharaj Kumar of Jhalawar, Yuvrani of Jhalawar, and Sir Arthur Levy.

Major-General T. A. Cubitt, Sir P. D. Pattani, and Sir Trevredyn Wynne were among the passengers who left London on November 8 by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the s.s. Maloja, now on her maiden voyage to Bombay.

Among the passengers embarking at Marseilles on November 30 on the P. and O. s.s. Moldavia for the East will be Brig.-General C. R. I. Brooke, C.M.G., D.S.O., Sir L. and Lady Cussen, the Right Hon Sir Alfred Mond, Bart., and Lady Mond, D.B.E.

Brig.-General A. d'A. King, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Professor and Mrs. P. E. Newberry, and Commodore Sir Frederick W. Young, K.B.E., and Lady Young are also expected to sail on the Moldavia.

Brigadier-General the Hon. C. G. Bruce has been given leave of absence by the Glamorgan Territorial Association, of which he is secretary, to enable him to carry out another attempt to scale Mount Everest. General Bruce is leaving for India in February.

The marriage took place last Saturday at St. Alban's Church, Streatham Park, of Professor L. F. Rushbrook Williams, C.B.E., Director of Public Information, Government of India, and Freda May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Chance, of Streatham. The bride and bridegroom will leave London to-day, and arrive in Bombay by the mail steamer Macedonia on November 30.

Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, Governor-Designate of Bombay, and Lady Wilson, who sail for India in the Dongola on November 23, were entertained at luncheon last Thursday at The Willows, Windsor, when the guests included Sir Thomas and Lady Strangman, Mr. P. R. Cadell, I.C.S., and Mrs. Cadell, Mr. Selkirk, and Captain Donald Simson.

Viscount Peel, Secretary of State for India, entertained at luncheon last Friday at the Ritz Hotel the Maharaja of Alwar, the Prime Ministers of Australia, New Zealand, and Newfoundland, the Duke of Devonshire, Earl Winterton, Lord Queenborough, Sir John Maffey, Sir Louis Kershaw, Lord Hardinge, Mr. Drake, Mr. E. J. Turner, Mr. Dalal, Professor Rushbrook Williams, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Mr. S. K. Brown, Sir Benjamin Robertson, and Mr. Innes.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1923.

INDIANS IN THE EMPIRE.

We referred briefly last week to the discussions in the Imperial Conference on the status of Indians resident in other portions of the Empire. To-day we offer a more detailed statement of our attitude towards the group of questions which have from time to time arisen in this connection. Our standpoint in this matter is frankly Imperial. We regard the British Empire, however illogical its constitution, however cumbrous its practical working, as, on the whole, the greater factor for good now operating actively in the world, and, while we recognise the advantages derived by each unit from its membership, we think more of the correlative duty imposed on each, the duty of subordinating particularist to general ideals, and working in concert to further the common aim. The questions now under consideration spring directly from the inspiration which has made the Empire. England came into India at a time of degradation now difficult to realise, and could have done with it almost what she chose. She could, for instance, have followed the line taken so successfully by the Dutch in Asia, and developed her possession as an industrial and commercial proposition. In fact, she took a different line, she worked to produce not commodities but men, and the problems now before us are evidence of the success already achieved in that laborious undertaking. England has brought into existence in India a sense of national self-respect, for any trace of which the annals of a thousand years may be searched in vain. The expression of this new sentiment is often crude, but its reality is beyond question, and England is bound to respect it, not because it is her own creation, but because it is an indispensable factor in the advancement of India to the position which has been offered to her in the Empire. Such practical difficulties as have arisen are due to the conflict between this sentiment and other sentiments which have grown up simultaneously elsewhere. The task of the Empire as a whole is to harmonise this conflict, and the measure of success already achieved justifies the hope that perfect harmony can be ultimately secured, not by subordinating one sentiment to another, but by merging both in the realisation of some wider principle.

The clash of sentiment has already passed through various phases, which it is important to distinguish. At first, Indian self-respect came directly into conflict with the equally passionate determination to exclude from the Dominions the spectre of poverty from which so many of their founders had fled. There were undoubtedly grounds for the fear that sparse populations in new countries might be swamped by an influx of Indians, bringing with them a frugal standard of living, which would have meant poverty for their neighbours; and unconcerted measures taken to prevent such an occurrence assumed an aspect of discrimination on the ground of race or colour, which could not fail to wound the national self-respect of India. This phase was happily closed once for all, when the Imperial Conference of 1918 recognised the general principle that each portion of the Empire, including India, is free to control the composition of its own population. The Indian representatives accepted this principle, the danger of swamping disappeared, and Imperial statesmanship had won its first victory. In the second phase, the questions at issue related not to any possible influx of new population, but to the position of Indians lawfully domiciled in other parts of the Empire: Should they be accepted as citizens, or treated as inferior beings? The Conference of 1921 in its turn formulated a principle to govern the decision of such questions, recognising that disabilities imposed on Indians are incongruous with the position of India in the Empire; and, had this principle been accepted unanimously, the second phase also would have come to an end. South Africa, however, stood aloof, and created a precedent by recording its formal dissent from the view accepted by the remaining members. Hopes were felt in some quarters that at this year's Conference the dissenting Dominion would make some gesture which might soften the conflict on this point; but her attitude proved to be rigid, and General Smuts urged in a memorandum that the previous resolution should be rescinded. His suggestion met with no support, and thus the second phase of the conflict is closed, except as regards one portion of the Empire. We are far from underrating the practical difficulties in the immediate application of the principle of equality to the case of Natal. We had hoped that South Africa might offer something on account, and we believe that responsible opinion in India would not have pressed for immediate settlement in full, but, as things stand, the conflict remains within this limited area.

For its cure we must look to time and the slow pressure of Imperial sentiment. Meanwhile, it is the clear duty of Imperialists to face the facts, and neither to magnify nor to minimise the difficulty; and we appeal in particular to the leaders of Indian opinion to discountenance all the pernicious nonsense that is being talked on political platforms just now regarding some breach of faith supposed to have been committed by the British Government. The actual situation is perfectly clear. On one side stands South Africa, determined and uncompromising; on the other side stand India and Great Britain, Canada and Newfoundland, Australia and New Zealand, as well as the latest recruit to the Conference, the Irish Free State. The majority has no power to impose its will on the minority, and to represent the failure of one member to do so as a breach of faith can result only from gross stupidity or from intentional malice.

South Africa apart, then, the discussion has now entered on the third phase, in which it is a question of bringing existing institutions into harmony with the general principle already accepted. There are good grounds in the proceedings of the Conference for hoping that this phase will prove to be the last. In some cases there is nothing that needs alteration, in others there are merely details which ought to be susceptible of friendly adjustment; and it is significant that the only question apart from Natal, which now arouses excitement in India is the position in Kenya, a dependency and not a dominion. As regards Kenya, the feeling in India is undoubtedly genuine, but much of it is ill-informed, and it has been scandalously exploited by politicians whose supply of grievances has run short. The decision reached last summer was generally favourable to Indian sentiment. Indians feared that responsible government would be granted to the small European element: that has been decisively refused. Indians feared that

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they would be segregated, ostensibly on sanitary grounds: segregation has been finally negatived. Indians feared discriminating restrictions on immigration: this matter is to be regulated on economic, not racial, grounds, and the principle already accepted for the Empire as a whole. So far as we can discover, only two objections are raised to the settlement: one affecting the franchise, the other relating to the reservation of the highlands. The first we regard as invalid, the second as substantially reasonable. Indians object to communal representation in Kenya, but they have insisted on the system for their own country. To establish their case. they must show that the population of Kenya, African and Arab, Indian and European, has reached a stage of homogeneity far in advance of anything prevailing in India. Their own arguments show that this is not the case, and we can see nothing to offend in the arrangement actually adopted, under which each community is to be represented separately in the legislature. The reservation of the highlands for Europeans must, on the other hand, offend Indian sentiment so long as it remains in force, and we regard it as inconsistent with the principle of equality laid down by the Imperial Conference; but to say this is not to recognise a breach of faith. England is bound by a promise made to the settlers in the highlands before Indian claims had become prominent. If England were now to break that promise for the sake of India, then the whole basis of confidence would be utterly destroyed, and she could equally well break her promises to India for the sake of any other element in the heterogeneous population, which might at any time put forward new claims. India can trust England so long, and only so long, as England deals honourably with existing engagements. The position is unsatisfactory, because the old promise prevents full realistion of the new principle. In our judgment the right course now is to work steadily for the liquidation of the older engagement by the offer of compensation or by such other means as may be found practicable; but until it is liquidated it must stand, and its survival means not a breach of faith, but a standing demonstration of the fact that England holds by a promise, however inconvenient it may be. In Kenya then, as in Natal, there are difficulties still to be solved, but when we look back to the time when Indians felt that they were face to face with an Empire united in hostility to their aspirations, the change wrought by successive Conferences becomes so conspicuous as to justify the hope that the remaining difficulties also will yield to the solvent of friendly frankness which is the essence of the Imperial Commonwealth.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

KINGS OF ARABIA.

"KINGS OF ARABIA: THE RISE AND FALL OF THE TURKISH SOVRANTY IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA." By Harold F. Jacob, C.S.I., Lieut.-Colonel and Officer of the Legion of Honour. (London: Mills and Boon, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net).

This is a fascinating and conscientious exposition of the modern geography, history, politics, society, and genius of Araby as a whole, and of Aden and S.W. Arabia in particular. Of course, no other man could have written it, because "Kings of Arabia" is the product of a very exceptional concatenation of talent and opportunity. But one says, on closing the book, the author was bound to write this; he had no option; he was afire with circumstance and vision. In a word, it is the stamp of book which wins permanence. At the same time, it invites criticism, because it gives the author's considered estimate of the Arab mind, and advocates a policy for our present and future Imperial relations with the whole of Islam. The Arab, says Colonel Jacob in effect, is an irrepressible individualist; a democrat without a party, whose ideal is not the State, nor the frontier, not even the tribe, and sometimes not even the family. "If my sister play the harlot, what is that to me?" (p. 71). Combination for purposes of offence and plunder he may with difficulty contrive; but for purposes of defence, for the defence of Arabia, for instance, or for the still smaller propositions, the Yemen or Mesopotamia, he is practically incapable of steady, politic, faithful combination. But he is a fighter! But he is a fanatic! "The hand is thy hand even if it is leprous" (p. 104); "Not one kneels to another nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago" (p. 99); "A blow on the nose is easier to endure than a breach of custom" (p. 98). But again, and this from a long and apparently sad experience, "The camel of Government will out-tire the gazelle of the tribesman" (p. 146). And again. "Call me Nakib (governor), and you may cut off my subsistence" (p. 98). What then really is the logical sense of "The Child of the Desert"? Why did the Turk always mishandle him? Why has not England hitherto equally mishandled him, although she be of the hated Giaour? Colonel Jacob shrewdly quotes Renan: "L'élément vraiment constituant de la nation n'est ni la race, ni la couleur, ni la langue, ni la réligion, ni les frontières naturelles; c'est le désir d'être ensemble." Has not England hitherto endeavoured to understand the Arab's susceptibilities? And if King Husein (*sic*), King Ibn Saud, King Feisal, King Abdulla, the King of Omar, the King (Imam) of Sana, the King of Hadramaut, and all the other kings, amirs, saiyids, sultans, sheikhs, etc., cannot, will not combine, are they so very unreasonable? Is it any affair of ours? Do not we subvention them separately and sufficiently? What do they think of Mustapha Kemal Pasha? What do they think of Sir Tej Sapru? Who and where is their real Khalif? What do they think of England? "Better go to hell with the British than share the Paradise of the Turks!" We cannot answer these questions in this brief appreciation. Our author answers most of them, not flippantly, nor like Paget, M.P., nor like "damfala passenger" who jumps on shore at Aden for two hours; but after the manner, insight and familiarity, and with no slight grip of the mantle of Richard Burton.

Colonel Jacob has been for many years in the closest touch with Arabia, both as First Assistant to the Resident of Aden and as Political Agent of the Aden Hinterland. During the Great War he was Chief Political Adviser on S.W. Arabia to two successive High Commissioners of Egypt, Sir Reginald Wingate and Viscount Allenby. His equipment for such "expert" positions *va sans dire*. With our deplorably insufficient intimacy with the Near Orient we are prone to regard expert Arabists as fallible. They are apt to acquire the "lifelong Resident's" narrowed vision. There is the story of the man who knew how to spell the word camel correctly because he had seen the animal. In "Kings of Arabia" Colonel Jacob expresses a horror of the appellation of expert. From a mine of personal observations the innermost and deepest galleries of which are clearly and carefully exposed to you, he produces his metal for the statesman to assay. There has been no salting of his property. The weird Arab mentality, as he has mined it, is, he insists, a very malleable metal. We do not follow him in his full pro-Turkish programme, although Kutaiba bin Muslim said of the Turks, "They are more truly attached to their country than are the camels," and "a voice once came to Abu Hanifa: 'Thy religion shall endure so long as the sword is in the hands of the Turks'"

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(p. 72). But between pro-Turks and anti-Turks at this very moment we may at least commend to our Foreign, India, and Colonial Offices an Arab saw: "None can adjudicate between snakes but a serpent" (p. 79). And we assume, from a careful reading of this brilliant and elaborate picture-book, that Colonel Jacob himself is prepared to back the Arab until the Turk shall have put his own ramshackle house in order. We would recommend "Kings of Arabia" to schoolboys who may be sentinels of "Our far flung battle line" in the years to come; to lovers of literature and humour; to people who merely pass Port Said, Jedda, Hodeida, and Aden, and to fashionable ladies of the West who wonder why Arabs are often so good-looking. And of the publishers we demand politely a map of S.W. Arabia for subsequent editions, even if this very cheap volume should cost a trifle more.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The American Jewish Year Book, 5684.' September 11, 1923, to September 28, 1924. Volume XXV. Edited by Harry Schneiderman, for the American Jewish Committee. (Philadelphia: The Jewish Publication Society of America.)

"The Tomb of Tut-Ankh-Amen." Discovered by the late Earl of Carnarvon and Howard Carter. By Howard Carter and A. C. Mace. (London: Cassell and Co., Ltd. 31s. 6d.) Volume I.

"Days and Nights with Indian Big Game." By Major-General A. E. Wardrop. (London: Macmillan and Co. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Hassan." By James Elroy Flecker. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd. 6s. net.)

"The Thing at their Heels." By Harrington Hext. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"A Vision of Morocco: The Far West of Islam." By V. C. Scott O'Connor. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 25s. net.) Illustrated.

"Tutankhamen and other Essays." By Arthur Weigall. Illustrated. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 15s. net.)

"The Shadow of Egypt." By Norma Lorimer. (London: Hutchinson and Co., Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Life's Antagonisms." By Harry Tighe. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Stories of the First Pioneers in Palestine." By Hannah Trager. With a Foreword by Israel Zangwill. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 4s. 6d. net.)

"Wonderful Tales of a Wonderful People." By E. David Goitein. (London: George Routledge and Sons, Ltd. 3s. 6d. net.)

"India." The Nations of To-day Series. Edited by John Buchan. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 15s. net.)

"Palestine and Morocco." By Sir W. Martin Conway, M.P. (London: Edward Arnold and Co. 16s. net.)

NEWS IN BRIEF.

Lord Allenby arrived in Cairo on November 7 from England.

The Shah of Persia left Teheran for Europe on November 4.

M. and Mme. Venizelos left the Ritz Hotel last Thursday for Paris.

The Queen of Egypt gave birth last Thursday to a daughter, who has been named Faiza.

A Peshawar message states that a second son was born last week to the Amir of Afghanistan.

According to a message from Angora, Mustapha Kemal Pasha is confined to bed with heart trouble.

Captain Edward Ponsonby Watts, of the Kurram Militia, and Mrs. Watts, were killed at Parachinar, North-West Frontier, on November 8.

The National Conference, Delhi, British Auxiliary, held a reception on November 12, at 13, Mansfield Street, to meet Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.

An ammunition dump at Fort Domnesti, nine miles from Bucharest, exploded on November 10, and it is reported that over forty people were killed.

General Lord Rawlinson, Commander-in-Chief in India, arrived in Delhi on November 6 after a brief tour through Baluchistan, Waziristan, and Peshawar.

Thirty deputies, representing all the Yugoslav political parties, have left Belgrade for Warsaw in response to an invitation issued by the Polish Parliamentary parties.

Sir Herbert Samuel, the British High Commissioner, left Jerusalem on November 9 on a two days' visit to the Emir Abdullah at Amman.

M. Duparinoff, Minister of Justice in M. Stamboliskys Cabinet, was shot dead on November 10 while being conveyed under escort from Tatar Pazardzik to Sofia.

The Government of India has decided to resume gradually direct relations with the Bombay States, comprising Kathiawar, Cutch, and Palanpur, by establishing its own residency.

The Egyptian Government has accepted an invitation to send a delegate to the International Conference to be held in Rome in the middle of January to discuss the question of emigration.

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Edward Ellington took over command of the Royal Air Force in India on November 6 from Air Commodore Philip Game, who has been appointed to the Air Ministry.

The Customs agreement of 1890 between the Ottoman Empire and the Egyptian Customs will not apply between Palestine and Egypt after to-day. Imports from Egypt will then bear similar duties to those on other foreign imports.

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, held at Manchester on November 6, it was resolved to contribute the sum of £500 towards the Endowment Fund of the Kitchener Memorial Medical School at Khartoum.

The Roumanian Cabinet on November 7 approved the proposal of the Foreign Minister to resume negotiations with Soviet Russia on commercial and industrial questions. A Roumanian Commission will shortly leave for Tiraspol (Ukraine) to meet a Russian Commission.

It is stated from Constantinople that the official document containing the formal and canonical abdication of the Œcumenical Patriarch, Mgr. Meletios IV., was read at the meeting of the Holy Synod on November 10. The Patriarch withdrew to Mount Athos from the Phanar last July.

Major-General Sir Charles Dobell, K.C.B., C.M.G., who has recently retired with the honorary rank of Lieut.-General, served in the Hazara Expedition and the campaigns in Crete, China, South Africa, and Northern Nigeria. During the first two years of the Great War he commanded the Allied Forces in the Cameroons, and afterwards successively the Western and Eastern Forces of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. He commanded a division during the Third Afghan War.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

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Anglo-Persian Rumours.

On more than one occasion since the War it has been rumoured that the British Government was contemplating the relinquishment of its holding in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, but when the question was raised in the House of Commons the expected *démenti* was promptly forthcoming. The last occasion on which the question came up, if my memory serves me right, was some eighteen months ago, when Mr. Baldwin's answer had about it an air of finality that suggested the final disposal of the matter. It would now appear, however, that within the last few weeks negotiations have been entered into to this end. Naturally the news has occasioned not a little surprise, but one can only assume that if and when (and I think this qualification is very clearly called for) a definite step may be taken the Government will be able to give very good reasons for the alteration in its attitude.

Protection and an Election.

Affairs political have moved at an amazing pace since I last wrote. From Mr. Baldwin's first reference to the essential need for freedom from the pledge given by his predecessor it was evident that he did not anticipate an early appeal to the country, and there was no reason why he should, for the present system would seem to leave ample scope for such a development of tariffs as would serve the immediate end. Most people anticipated that he would exploit all the present available avenues to the fullest, and that only when they had been exhausted would he invite a challenge on the issue of Protection as a policy. Events have evidently been too strong for him, and the issue has now resolved itself into whether an election shall be held next month or in January, and of the two I shall be surprised if on tactical grounds the former is not selected. Much is to be said in favour of it and little against. The mere mention of an election has already had a markedly depressing effect on business, while the downward trend of the prices of Government securities, though to some extent reflecting the demand for money on the part of railway and other large concerns, indicates also the general feeling of uncertainty that has been aroused by the knowledge that there is to be a resort to the verdict of the hustings. Elections are proverbially uncertain, and while most people would, I think, be prepared to lay long odds against a Labour victory, there will always be those who take their precautions against every contingency and who are exchanging into dollar securities for fear of a capital levy, the reaction of sterling in New York being due to some extent to this factor.

A Case for a Strong Tariff.

While with the opening of the battle for Protection much has been heard of various industries that need the help a strong tariff can alone afford, I have seen absolutely no reference of any description to the film industry, which seems as much in need of support as any. A casual visit to any kinema (what a fearful word to use!) is sufficient to show the extent of the supremacy of the foreign film. At the present time British film makers are simply unable to compete with the American manufacturers, who are in a position almost to monopolise the British market. The question of merit unfortunately does not arise. British firms are capable of turning out, and do produce, some admirable films, but in the existing conditions they have no scope for development, and British audiences (who, I hope, are deserving of better things) are compelled to watch unending reels of the most rubbishy productions that are exported to this country. At almost every kinema exhibition there is the inevitable "cowboy" film, and it has always been a mystery to me why British audiences appear to tolerate it, for if one sees one or two of the films, one may almost be said to have seen all, so alike are they in scenery and episode. The complaint has been forthcoming freely of late that the kinemas no longer attract their usual audiences, and the blame is attributed to the Entertainments Tax. I suggest it is the fault of the films, and I hope that when the Government comes to frame an equitable tariff, British films will receive their chance.

British Films Abroad.

In the support of the British film industry it must be borne in mind that there are more considerations involved than the protection of the home market. So long as the market here is swamped by foreign films it is obvious that it is impossible for British firms to develop to an adequate extent and to devote the attention to foreign markets that they should. It has long been a source of complaint that in India and Egypt films are shown which, to put it very mildly, do scant justice to the manners, life, and customs of the people of Great Britain. The adverse consequences of this kind of thing on races prone to believe what they see can readily be believed. In other countries, and particularly in the Near East, we are placed at a disadvantage by the absence of British films, for the film can be in a sense an instrument of national endeavour abroad, and is so utilised by our rivals. The corrective is, as I have pointed out, to see to the well-being of the home manufacturing industry.

Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

The annual meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate—a report of which will be found elsewhere in this issue—was notable for a most comprehensive survey of the company's extensive operations by the chairman, Mr. F. Eckstein. No one could read what he said and not be impressed by the wonderful work that has so far been accomplished, and by the very obvious prospects

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before the company. From now onwards a rapid increase in the output of cotton is to be looked for from the Sudan, and after the completion of the Makwar Dam in 1925, the Sudan will be able to make a really important contribution towards Lancashire's requirements of cotton.

The Coming Fair.

It had been feared that the alteration of the date of the British Industries Fair might prejudice its success, but, as pointed out in an article last week, this has proved to be groundless, and the indications suggest that the Fair will meet with even better support than on previous occasions. Its advantage as a medium for bringing buyers and sellers together is so obvious that one is simply at a loss to understand how it was that it was not until after the war had broken out that the need for such an institution was felt. Obviously it should have been in existence long before to counteract the influence of the Leipsic Fair, which was in pre-war days not the least important instrument of German economic penetration. However, we must be thankful that we have it, and the results that have attended its short existence make it as certain as anything that the "B.I.F." is now a permanent institution.

COMMENTATOR.

OIL NOTES AND NEWS.

THE "VICKCEN" CENTRIFUGAL OIL SEPARATOR.

Several interesting devices have recently been evolved for enabling ships to comply with the Oil in Navigable Waters Act. Oil-bearing steamers frequently fill their oil tanks with salt water after the oil in the tank has been either expended or discharged. When these tanks are again pumped out the water pumped from the tank is necessarily contaminated with a certain proportion of oil. Oil is also inevitably present in the bilges of such ships, and under the Oil in Navigable Waters Act it is an offence to pump this contaminated water into harbours or docks on account of the pollution caused. The devices which have been evolved principally have in mind the object of discharging oil-free water into the harbour. There is, however, another and extremely important aspect of this operation. The oil as recovered from these devices still contains a proportion of water and dirt, rendering it, as a rule, unfit for actual use as a fuel without further treatment. This water and dirt are usually so intimately mixed with the oil as to form an emulsion, and no matter how long this is allowed to settle it never separates. Some force of much greater magnitude than gravity must be applied to break it into its component parts of pure oil, water, and dirt. There has, however, been put on the market recently an entirely British-made centrifugal oil purifier, by means of which machine it is possible rapidly and efficiently to purify this recovered oil, rendering it entirely fit for further use.

This new machine is known as the Vickcen Oil Purifier, and is handled by Messrs. British Separators, Limited, of 161, Queen's Road, Peckham, who are associated with Messrs. Vickers, Limited. They have already been largely used on board ship for the purification of fuel oil and lubricating oil in connection with marine power plants, and further for the same purpose in connection with land power plants, and also for the dehydration of transformer oil. It is most fascinating to watch these machines in operation. The mixture of oil, water, and dirt flows into a cup at the top of the machine; below this are three spouts. From the bottom is discharged the water and dirt, and from the one above the pure oil. The top one is merely a safety device. The machine will run for hours with practically no attention whatever.

These machines can undoubtedly be described as a triumph of British engineering skill, and special interest attaches to them in that they enable compliance with the Oil in Navigable Waters Act to become in some cases a commercial advantage, due to the rapid and efficient recovery of oil in an entirely fit state for use.

DUSDAP TO MESHED BY MOTOR.

At the annual meeting of the Institute of Transport, held on November 5 in the hall of the Electrical Engineers, Victoria Embankment, Major T. Salkield told the story of an adventurous journey from Dusdap in Baluchistan—where the Indian railway system ends—to Meshed in Persia. The journey, he said, had been undertaken at the instance of a large firm of Delhi merchants with the view of ascertaining trade possibilities. Major Salkield was one of a party of three Englishmen who undertook this task; they travelled in a motor car, and were accompanied by three heavily-laden motor lorries driven by Indians. The journey throughout was most difficult; often the lorries would sink axle deep in sand. At such times the wheels were dug free; pieces of timber resembling railway sleepers—which were carried as part of the equipment—were placed underneath, and the motor vehicle liberated. But at Jamin it became impossible for the loaded motor lorries to proceed over the mounds of drifting sand. "The wind," said the lecturer, "which never ceases in this part of the desert, blows the sand about in a most extraordinary manner, heaping it up into dunes. In an exceedingly short space of time a huge mound will travel a considerable distance." At this part of the journey the merchandise was carried on camel back for 25 miles, and it was only by dint of much pulling, pushing, driving, and digging that the empty lorries were got through.

At another part of the journey high mountain passes had to be crossed; and once, when quite near the end of the journey, while descending the pass above Hauz, the driver of one of the motor lorries lost his nerve, and without making any effort to stop the engine or put on the brake jumped off. A very large boulder stopped the lorry after its two fore wheels had actually gone over the precipitous edge of the road; otherwise the vehicle must have been destroyed.

Meshed, Major Salkield described as a city only comparatively clean, but with an air of sanctity natural to a place which is, next after Mecca, the most sacred shrine of the Moslem religion. Shops at which carpets and rugs could be purchased he found to be plentiful, and many trades and professions were represented. Many varieties of fruit were displayed in the shops; the very finest dried fruits were cheap and plentiful.

Speaking of the results of the trip, Major Salkield said he did not think the route was suitable for a railway. If one was laid some sections would be very expensive, owing to high cost of labour, lack of road-making material, dearth of water, and drifting sand; the solution of the transport problem lay in the making of a track that would be able to stand up against a light type of suitable motor vehicle which it should be possible to design for service in desert places. Motor transport was destined to supersede camel transport eventually, just as the steamship had driven the sailing ship from the sea. A camel could only travel about 20 miles a day and carry a load of 320 lb. For food alone a well-fed camel would cost in Persia about 2s. a day. Transport of merchandise from Dusdap to Meshed (about 583 miles) cost now at the rate of 2s. 10½d. per ton mile for some consignments, and 4s. 9½d. per ton mile for others.

The traffic receipts for the ten days ended October 20, of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways amounted to £E11,545, making the total since April 1, £E145,503. The figures for the corresponding periods of 1922 were £E12,917 and £E169,775.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

THE MOTOR SHOW.—II.

As usual, the stand of Messrs. the Crossley Motors, Ltd., was of particular interest. The exhibits included a 19.6 h.p. five-seater, a 14 h.p. four-seater saloon, and a 20-70 h.p. sports four-seater. The Crossley 19.6 is too well known to need much comment; indeed, it is probably as popular a car in its class as any on the market. This car, it may be recalled, broke all R.A.C. certified trial car mileage records when it completed 25,000 miles under official observation, with only 3½ mins. spent on adjustments, etc. The 14 h.p. model is an admirable production, and should prove very popular with those who want a luxurious car at a moderate price. The 20-70 h.p. sports model has an engine 3½ in. bore by 5⅞ in. stroke, and an interesting feature is that it is fitted with four-wheel brakes.

Messrs. Ruston and Hornsby, Ltd., showed a 16 h.p. five-seater tourer and two-three-seater de luxe model, and a 20 h.p. five-seater and seven-seater limousine. The Ruston-Hornsby cars are built on most attractive lines, and they look what they are: extremely useful cars; and their roominess will no doubt strongly appeal to buyers who are seeking a car in which comfort is one of the predominant considerations. The 16 h.p. model has an engine 80 bore by 130 stroke, and has three forward speeds, and is fitted with a C.A.V. lighting and electric starting set. The 20 h.p. model has an engine 90 bore by 130 stroke, the five-seater car having an enclosed hood and a rear windscreen.

The most interesting exhibit of Messrs. the Armstrong Siddeley Motors, Ltd., was their 14 h.p. four-cylinder model. The car has an engine 3 in. bore by 4 in. stroke, overhead valves, and a detachable head, magneto ignition, and three forward speeds. The gear box and the torque tube are in line, while the brakes act in drums at the rear. This firm also showed their 18 h.p. and 30 h.p. cars. The 18 h.p. car has an engine 69.5 bore by 104.8 stroke, forced lubrication, magneto ignition, and three forward speeds, while the 30 h.p. car has an engine 88.9 bore by 133.4 stroke and four-wheel brakes.

Messrs. the Austin Motor Company, Ltd., showed a large variety of their famous cars—a 20 h.p. landaulette, a 12 h.p. saloon and tourer, and a 7 h.p. chassis and car. The Austin Twenty and Twelve have earned a well-deserved popularity among the motoring community, and it seems very probable that the Seven will outdistance them in this respect. Priced at £165, the car is one which is within the reach of a very wide circle of potential motorists. In many respects it is the ideal car for the business and for pleasure purposes. Particulars of the car may be briefly summarised. It has an engine 56 bore by 76 stroke, thermo-syphon water circulation, forced feed lubrication, magneto ignition, three forward speeds, and internal expanding brakes on all four wheels. Its wheel base and track are respectively 6 ft. 3 in. and 3 ft. 4 in., and the car is fitted with hood and double screen.

Messrs. the Daimler Co., Ltd., had a number of cars on view, including a 45 h.p. laudaulette, a 21 h.p. landaulette, and a 16 h.p. saloon landaulette. The 45 h.p. model has an engine 110 bore by 130 stroke, an automatic carburettor, magneto ignition, lubrication by a multi-plunger oil pump, and four forward speeds and reverse. Its wheelbase is 12 ft. 2 in. and its track is 4 ft. 9 in. It is in every way a most admirable production, its graceful outlines and fine finish giving it a most attractive appearance. To those whose purse will run to a really good car the Forty-Five will make a strong appeal. The 21 h.p. model has an engine 75 bore by 114 stroke, battery ignition, and four forward speeds and reverse. This also is a remarkably fine car, as is the 16 h.p. model, which has an engine 65 bore by 94 stroke.

Trade Within the Empire.

The manufacturing equipment of Great Britain is of greater excellence and capacity than in any other period in history. Given the demand, within a few months the output of British factories would greatly exceed that of the pre-war period, and the dangerous existing condition of unemployment would be immediately relieved. Great Britain is the centre of an enormous Empire. By supplying the right type of goods and cultivating Empire trade the demands of the vast overseas territories will easily maintain the industries of the Home Country, and in return the overseas nations of the Empire will supply the Home Country with the greater part of the goods necessary for the economic life of Great Britain. Trade within the Empire, therefore, implies the obligation of the home manufacturer to produce the right goods for the Empire overseas, and the obligation of the Empire overseas to purchase the goods of the Home Country in preference to those of the foreigner.

An industry which has made real progress in Great Britain during recent years is that of marine motor manufacture, and one or two firms are now producing marine motor engines which not only compete in price with the cheapest foreign makes, but are in every respect superior in design and manufacture. A firm which specially caters for this particular class of trade is the Ailsa Craig Motor Co., Ltd., who, a couple of years ago, produced a wonderful four-cylinder 10-14 h.p. engine called the Ailsa Craig Kid specifically to compete with the small foreign engines. The complete outfit of engine with combined reversing gear and clutch together with bronze tailshaft, stern gear and propeller, all, of course, designed for salt water use, is sold at the remarkably low price of £100.

The company publish very distinctive literature and catalogues giving the fullest possible particulars of their range of engines, and specially drawn up for the use of buyers in the Colonies and abroad. These catalogues describe the complete range of the company's products from 8 h.p. engines up to 50 h.p. with much interesting data in regard to technical details and the use of the engines with reducing gear sets, hydraulic propulsion for shallow draft, etc.

Sir Stephen Demetriadi (chairman of the East Indian Section, London Chamber of Commerce) gave a luncheon on November 7 at 41, Hans Place, S.W., in honour of Mr. D. M. Dalal, the new High Commissioner for India. The guests included: Lord Inchcape, Lord Southwark, Sir George Barnes, Sir Malcolm Seton, Sir William Clark, Sir Louis Kershaw, Sir Norcot Warren, Sir Charles Macleod, Sir Frank Carter, Sir Campbell Rhodes, Mr. C. A. Innes, Mr. C. Hipwood, Mr. R. L. Barclay, Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, Mr. N. N. Wadia, Mr. J. M. Dick, Mr. A. J. Jackson, Mr. C. J. Longcroft, and Mr. C. Nicoll.

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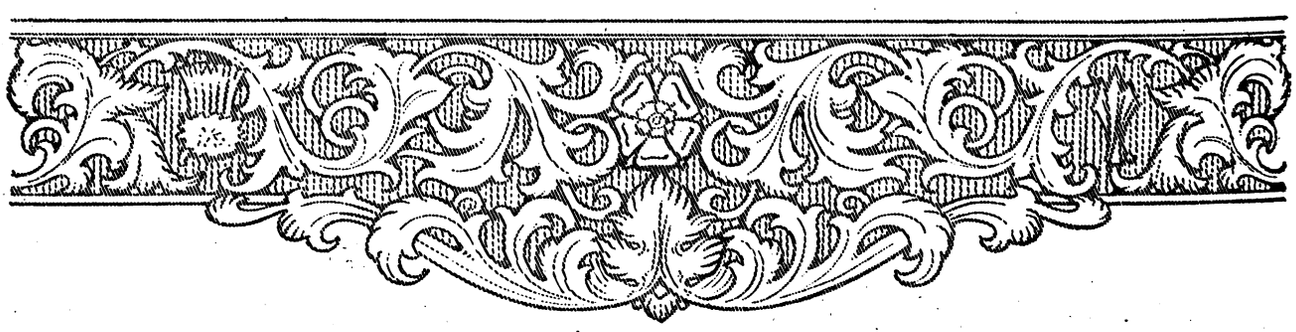

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

BRITISH COTTON-GROWING ASSOCIATION

Improved Position in India.

At the monthly meeting of the council of the British Cotton-Growing Association, held on November 6 at the offices of the association, 333-350, Royal Exchange, Manchester, at which Mr. E. Porritt presided in the absence of the president, Lord Derby, it was reported that some most encouraging reports have been received from India, where the association have been endeavouring for many years to promote the cultivation of long-stapled cotton suitable for Lancashire's requirements. In the Punjab the season has on the whole been favourable, and the crop promises well. The demand for seed of American cotton was very keen, and all available good seed was sold for sowing purposes. The area under cotton in the Lower Chenab Canal is as follows in acres: American cottons, 174,454; *Desi* cottons, 90,848—265,302, an increase of 25.7 per cent. Due to the good outturn of American cottons and to the substantial premiums for them over the *desi* varieties last year, the area under Americans has increased by over 47 per cent., which represents an increase of considerably more than half a lakh of acres. The area under *desi* has fallen by 2 per cent., a negligible quantity, whilst the total area under all cottons has risen by 54,244 acres—an increase of over 25 per cent. on last year.

In the Lower Bari Doab Canal district the area under cotton is as follows in acres: American cottons, 213,542; *desi* cottons, 22,458—236,000, an increase of 20 per cent. The increase in American cottons on this canal is also somewhat more than half a lakh of acres, which represents over 31 per cent. of the total last year. *Desi* cottons, which increased last year by some 15,000 acres on 1921 have fallen back this year by the greater part of the rise. The increase in the area under all cottons in this canal district is 20 per cent. over last year. On this canal a superior type of American cotton has steadily been increasing in area, and of the acreage given above some 20,000 acres are reported to consist of cotton which is valued at about ½d. on the price of American Futures, the remainder being an American variety worth about ¼d. on.

Mr. J. M. Thomas told the council that the visit which Mr. Himbury paid to India and the Sudan at the commencement of the year was beginning to bear fruit, and that the excellent report which he had made had been widely circulated and was creating much interest. Some three years ago the Indian Government granted the association the lease of 7,500 acres of irrigated land near Khanewal in the Punjab, which is being used as an object lesson to prove that good, suitable cotton can be produced, and the experiment has turned out to be very successful, as the Indian farmers in the neighbourhood are now cultivating American cotton on an extensive scale.

The Government Departments of Agriculture are doing excellent work in promoting the cultivation of these improved varieties, and the additional acreage of over 100,000 acres which has been planted this year in the areas served by the two canals above will result in an increased crop of about 50,000 bales of cotton suitable for the mills of this country.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Fairly Active.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 2, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been fairly active. The market opened with a good demand from abroad, which continued throughout the week, but although it has been larger in volume than for any previous week in this season, the weight of the heavy daily arrivals from upcountry has counterbalanced it, and we close practically at the same level of prices as a week ago. The strength of the American market and the poor reports received on the probable outturn of the American crop have given confidence to our market, and as a result less hedges have been put out against arrivals, and speculators have become more bullish. December Ashmouni contracts have been exceptionally firm, and at the close to-day are quoted at only $1.62 below November Sakellarides contracts. At the first November tender 7,750 krs. dockets were issued. The Government has bought practically nothing this week, but leaves it to be understood that should prices fall further they will recommence their purchases. A noteworthy feature is the very good export figures: 1,068,175 kantars, against 950,452 kantars for the same period last year. The total exports for the past year were 7,171,312 krs., but the supplies for that year in Egypt were about 8,000,000 kantars, whereas this year we do not expect to have more than 7,000,000 kantars (arrivals 6,200,000 krs. and carry-over Alexandria 800,000 krs.), and in spite of the bad industrial conditions existing all over the world a deficit of 1,000,000 krs. is bound, sooner or later, to influence the course of prices. The week's receipts amount to 381,661 krs., against exports 205,563 krs.; the stock stands at 1,702,681 krs. Spot.—The turnover during the week has been good, and Sakel has been very much more in demand than has been the case since the start of the season. We estimate the total sales at about 34,500 bales, of which 20,200 bales Sakel, 14,000 bales Uppers, 200 bales White, and 100 bales Pilion.

Sakellarides.—There has been a rather better inquiry for the higher grade cottons, but premiums paid remain about the same. The medium grades are very much sought after, and everything that comes on the market is immediately snapped up, with a consequent hardening of the price as compared with contracts. A certain amount of business has been done in low cotton, and sellers insist on full prices.

Uppers.—All grades have been in request, but the bulk of the demand is still for F.G.F. and below. For this cotton the price of spot against contracts has kept very firm, in spite of increased arrivals; the better grades are more or less unchanged.

White and Pilion.—A small business has been done in these varieties, almost entirely in F.G.F. and good. Crop 1923.—Heavy rains in the interior have seriously impeded the movement of the crop. Although no definite reports of damage have as yet been reported, there is no doubt that the rains have affected to a small extent, both in quality and quantity, the lower grades of the crop which are still unpicked.

The report of the Alexandria General Produce Association for October reads:—

Lower Egypt.—In the northern districts of the Delta during the first half of the month the temperature was favourable, but during the second half rain and fog caused some damage. The yield per feddan for the first two pickings is irregular, and on the whole it is inferior to that of last year. The "Nili" crop, owing to attack by worms, will give insignificant results. Ginning yield is slightly superior to that of last year. The foregoing applies to the Sakellaridis type. As regards the 15 per cent. planted with other varieties we can make no comparison, because last year they existed only in small quantities.

Upper Egypt and Fayoum.—The yield per feddan of the first two pickings is superior to that of last year. The ginning yield remains inferior to that of last year. Basing ourselves on all the information received to date, and on an acreage about equal to that planted last year, we estimate the crop to be 5,960,000 kantars.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Sharp Advance in Cotton.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 7:—

Egyptian Spot.—The past seven days have brought us a series of excited and very active markets. Prior to last Friday's Bureau Report indications had not been wanting that something of a startling nature was to be expected, and a good deal of buying, both of spot and forward cotton, took place before the actual publication. The figure presented, however, proved to be even more "bullish" than had been expected, and this was generally interpreted as being the final argument against the probability of lower prices this season. The result has been that to-day we register a bigger one-week advance in prices than we have witnessed for a very long time. The majority of spinners appear to have been "caught," and an eager, though belated, rush for cheap (!) cotton took place. Even now, there are spinners who are fighting the rise desperately, but there are many others who, although ten days ago they said they could not afford to pay 17d. for Egyptian cotton, are now perforce buying their requirements in the neighbourhood of 21d. Reviewing the facts, we have primarily, of course, the small American crop, which is also of poor quality. We have an Egyptian crop which is on the small side, probably not exceeding six million kantars, and a very small "carry over." The stock in Liverpool is at a low ebb, and spinners are short of cotton. This last fact is generally admitted, although the trade in Egyptian spinnings has been steadily improving for months past. Lastly, speculators who have been absent from the market for a long time, have now "come in," and the effect of their purchasing has already begun to be felt, particularly in Alexandria. Contrary to predictions from Manchester, the rise in prices has *not* killed

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trade there, but has, if anything, stimulated it. Reports from that centre of late have been consistently good. After a rise of over 2½d. per lb. in one week, it requires some courage to prophesy a further advance for the moment. It would seem rather that a certain amount of settling down, with a possible reactionary tendency, would be more likely under the circumstances. Should this occur, we are of the opinion that spinners would be wise to seize the opportunity and book their requirements as far as possible, as it appears to us that later in the season cotton for forward delivery will become decidedly scarce.

The crop movement is in full swing at the present time, and blocks of hedge selling have been keeping the Liverpool Egyptian market at what seems to be an unnatural parity with the American market. This cannot go on indefinitely, and the chances are that the parity will gradually widen, and a further advance in spot prices will follow as a matter of course. The demand here has been of considerable dimensions, but much of it was of a vague description, spinners finding it difficult to co-ordinate their needs with the rapidly changing markets in the raw material. The keynote of the enquiry has been "anything cheap." F.G.F. Sakel changed hands to-day at "100 on" January contracts, the latter being 20.10d. at the time, and this may be taken as "cheap" cotton, comparatively. Business in the higher grades has been very quiet. Uppers have provided an irregular market. "Good" cotton could be brought on the spot here to-day at about 20¼d. to 20½d., but fancy prices are being asked in various quarters. White cotton, spot and forward, is still in request in a small way. Brown and Sudan cottons have both been neglected. A good c.i.f. business has taken place; a few shippers of F.G.F. Sakel have been outstandingly cheap, and these offerings have been eagerly snapped up, mostly, we imagine, by merchants. Forwardings to spinners last week were abnormally high, the figures reaching 13,269 bales. Estimated sales have been returned as 3,200 bales Egypts, and 50 bales Sudan. Quotations of Upper are raised 235 points; those of Sakellaridis, fair and good fair, 215 points; fully good fair, good, and fine 225 points, and extra fine 255 points. In Brown, quotations are all nominal at an advance of 235 points on the week. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 20.9d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Fair Business in Yarn and Cloth.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 10 states:—

The market has been governed during the past week by a startling rise in the price of raw cotton, quotations of American being almost 2d. per lb. higher, whilst Egyptian has risen even more. This sudden movement followed, of course, the publication of the Bureau Report referred to last week; it has had the usual effect of enabling those firms who purchased their cotton or yarn at much lower rates to effect a fair volume of sales at prices which, whilst probably below replacement values, still show them a considerable profit, whilst, on the other hand, the more common effect has been to stop the negotiations which were proceeding.

Yarn.—For the reason mentioned above clearances of yarn have been on a fairly good scale. In a general way, however, it is to be expected that until the price of raw cotton becomes more or less stabilised after the violent fluctuations quotations will be irregular and operations curtailed. Egyptian spinnings are very firm.

Cloth.—As in the case of yarn a fair business appears to have been done at prices higher than those recently realised, these probably being goods manufactured from yarn bought before the recent advance. Business with India has been somewhat interrupted by holidays on the other side; for China, whilst there has been a good inquiry, actual orders have been scarce. Several of the smaller interests have taken numerous stock lots for quick delivery.

Raw Cotton.—As already mentioned, this has been a very strong market. Trade demand in Liverpool has been persistent, and no doubt the rise has also been considerably assisted by speculation. After the close of the Liverpool market last night weakness developed in New York, and there was a heavy fall of prices there which should be borne in mind when considering the closing Liverpool prices given below:—American fully middling, 19.42d.; Egyptian fully good fair, 20.90d.

The Administrative Council of the Suez Canal Company have declared the following net dividends on coupons falling due on January 1, 1924: Capital shares, 153.795f.; shares "de jouissance," 143.849 f.; founders' shares, 82.823f. Coupons will be discounted forthwith at the head office of the company at the rate of discount of the Banque de France.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

GREEK SHIPPING IN 1922.

The report of H.M. Vice-Consul at the Piræus on Greek shipping at that port in 1922 was quoted in these columns last week. As regards other seaports, H.M. Consul at Canea reports as follows:—

There was no lack of transport during the year under review, allowance being made for delays due to weather, since the harbours of Crete are not generally such as to afford shelter either to steamships or large sailing vessels. Greek steamers stopped their itineraries for about a month during September, 1922, owing to their having been requisitioned by the Government for the transport of troops and refugees from Asia Minor to the mainland and islands. On November 1 the Lloyd-Trestino started new lines calling fortnightly at Canea and Candia on their way from Italy to Egypt and Syria and Italy to Constantinople. At the port of Zante, 36 vessels entered during the year, of a tonnage of 51,054, the British flag being responsible for 13, of a tonnage of 21,028. Of the 4,255 tons of currants shipped from Zante 2,501 were carried under the British flag. Volo reported an entry of 87 vessels in 1922, four being British with a net tonnage of 133,027, the majority of the remainder being Dutch, Italian, and German.

H.M. Consul at Syra reports that, excluding coastal vessels, 63 vessels entered the port, with a total tonnage of 102,083; of these 25 were British. Rumours at the beginning of the year of contemplated developments in the harbour in the direction of the establishment there of a naval base have no basis in fact, and probably arose from the fact that the port is one of the few in the Ægean possessing slipways suitable for repairs to small naval vessels, and has been used from time to time for this purpose by destroyers, etc., belonging to foreign Powers.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Vindelia for Bombay (Liverpool, November 22).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahanada for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 17); s.s Masirah for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 20); s.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29); s.s Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 1).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Herefordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 21).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 23); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 24); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 7); s.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Colquhoun for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 30).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Dunkirk for Bombay (Birkenhead, November 20).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Maronian for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 24).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Registan for Persian Gulf (Manchester, December 8).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, November 30).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 17); s.s Incemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1); A Steamer for Piræus, Syra Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); A Steamer for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Assiout for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, November 17).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, November 30); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. Syrian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, November 20).

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Near East Markets.

YUGOSLAVIA'S PRUNE INDUSTRY.

The fresh plum crop of 1923 is estimated at 860,000 metric tons as compared with 849,032 in 1922 (says the United States Consul at Belgrade in a recent report). However, about 20 per cent. of the total yield is consumed as fresh plums, leaving 688,000 metric tons to be used as follows: 40 per cent. to be dried, 40 per cent. to be made into plum brandy, and the remaining 20 per cent. to be used in the making of marmalade. As it requires 3.5 metric tons of fresh plums to yield a ton of dried prunes, the total production of dried prunes for this year should be 78,628 metric tons, and of this amount it is estimated that 50,000 tons will be available for export.

It is difficult to forecast what effect the financial situation of Germany will have on the importation of dried prunes into that country. The depreciation of the German mark, with its consequent reduction in the purchasing power of the Germans, may very seriously affect the exportation of prunes from Yugoslavia unless the cheaper prunes of Yugoslavia could increase their sales at the expense of the superior California product.

Germany is by far the largest importer of the Yugoslavia product. The American Consul at Trieste reports that 982 metric tons of Bosnian and Serbian prunes were shipped from that port to the United States in 1922. These exports were probably credited to Italy, and do not appear in the statement. The following are the exports by countries shown in metric tons: Germany, 14,988; Austria, 7,164; Italy, 7,145; Hungary, 3,180; France, 2,697; Switzerland, 2,360; England, 1,367; Greece, 596; Netherlands, 580; Czecho-Slovakia, 158; Belgium, 160; Poland, 11; Bulgaria, 10; Norway, 10; Denmark, 10; Italian territory, 5.

Prunes are usually packed in bags for export, but recently barrels have been employed to a considerable extent. Boxes, however, are beginning to be used and with the great lumber resources of the country it is probable that exporters will more and more turn to this form of packing. This should bring about better grading of prunes for the foreign markets.

No statistics exist for the domestic consumption of dried prunes, but the difference between the estimated production and the actual export figures indicate what is used locally. No stocks of dried prunes are maintained from season to season, as all carry-overs are converted into plum brandy for local consumption.

SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for September:—

Gum.

The exports during September were 27,071 kilos of bleached of the value of £E1,782, 1,328,521 kilos of heshab of the value of £E56,186, and 140,875 kilos of talh of the value of £E2,798 via Port Sudan, and 9,975 kilos of hashab of the value of £E405 via Halfa.

Kordofan Province.—7,068 kantars of gum were sold in El Obeid market during the month as against 399 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.158 m.ms. per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 2,713 kantars, as against 2,617 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 2,881 kantars, as against 395 kantars last year, the average price being 920 m.ms. per kantar. No gum was sold either at Um Ruaba or Rahad during the month.

Cotton.

Berber Province.—Kitiab pumping station report: The state of the cotton is satisfactory. Flowering is general and much of the crop is bearing good-sized bolls, and in a few places some premature cotton has been picked. 100 rottles have been picked from No. 1 plot on the experimental farm sown on June 14. The cotton on Kitiab Island has made very marked improvement, and the majority of it is now too strong to be damaged much by the grass, which is still plentiful.

Dongola Province.—Gendettu pumping station report: There has been no rain since August 20, with the exception of a light shower on September 26, and cotton hoeing has proceeded satisfactorily. The early sown is clean and has a wonderful growth; boll shedding on this is still heavy. There are ample bolls left, however, to give an excellent crop providing they reach maturity. The later sown cotton has not grown so strongly; it is quite promising, however, and is flowering well. Gureir pumping station report: Cotton on the whole is looking very promising. All the early-sown is now in flower.

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: Strong winds have damaged some of the cotton, which has had to be resown.

Kassala Province.—Gash: The flow only lasted for 69 days in all and fell away rapidly in September. It is slightly below an average flood, but the high level maintained during August did all that was necessary for cotton growing. About 3,000 feddans have so far been taken up at Hadaliya and 800 at Mekali. The preliminary estimate of the cotton crop is about 19,000 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned).

Sesame.

Kordofan Province.—Sales in El Obeid market: Red sesame. 27 ardebs at an average price of £T145 per ardeb of 330 rottles (148 kilos).

Fung Province.—August: 475 tons of white sesame were exported from Karkoj and 84 tons were exported by rail from Makwar River Siding. The highest and lowest prices at Karkoj were £T200 and £T180 respectively per ardeb of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

Kassala Province.—The market price in Gedaref was £T170 per kantar of 300 rottles (135 kilos).

White Nile Province.—From present reports it seems likely that the sesame crop in the southern district will be below the average.

Dates.

Dongola Province.—An excellent crop of dates has been harvested. The price remains low at about £T60 per ardeb of 125 kilos.

Halfa Province.—Dates are now all gathered and await purchase by merchants. A price has been agreed upon in the districts of Sukkot and Mahas for Gundeila £T130 per sack, Barakawi £T120 per sack, Gargoda £T80 per sack. Some of the growers in Delgo District propose shipping their dates themselves direct to Halfa market in hopes of realising better prices. A great number of young date trees known as "Shettls" have been planted this year at the instigation of the Mamour of Sukkot and Mahas district.

Livestock, Hides and Skins.

Berber Province.—August: 600 sheep and goats and 51 cattle were sold at Damer during the month, of which 29 cattle were exported. Average prices: sheep £0.904, and cattle £3.929.

Berber Province.—3,028 sheep and goats and 74 cattle were sold in Damer market during the month, of which 692 sheep were exported. Average prices: Sheep £E1.008 m.ms., and cattle £E3.523 m.ms.

Kassala Province.—95 cattle and 307 sheep were exported from Kassala to Suakin and 100 to Damer. Permits were given for the export to Egypt of 2,100 camels by the Rashaida. 348 cattle were exported from Gedaref.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 20:—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 18,710 tons, and the sales to date at 16,740 tons. The market remains firm. Demand is running mainly on low grades, such as 12 and 13. Figs are strong. Although the interior is reported to be still holding 2/3000 tons, arrivals to market have practically ceased. Shippers appear to be short on their engagements, and higher prices may result.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97 15/32
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	285-295
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	370-390
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.85-24.93
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 28/32-1.4 31/32
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	90.70-91.90
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	860-880
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-90,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.4 28/32-1.4 31/32
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	775-795
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.34¾-4.38
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	78.40-78.90
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	15.½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	101 7/8
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	540-570
Teheran	Krans to £	—	465
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	308-313,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	7,750,000*

* Nominal.

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TURKEY'S FOREIGN TRADE

The British Commercial Secretary at Constantinople in a recent report states:—

Constantinople Customs House Returns for the first six months of the present year, furnished at special request by the Turkish Customs authorities, show that in point of weight Bulgaria now heads the list of exporting countries with 33,704,481 kilogs., America being second with 23,267,778 kilogs. and the United Kingdom third with 15,111,946 kilogs. The prominence of Bulgaria is no doubt due to the impetus given to the importation of wheat into Constantinople owing to the high duties on imported flour.

As regards the value of imported goods, America heads the list with 675,011,650 piastres, as compared with 619,098,900 pts. during the corresponding period in 1922, with the United Kingdom a close second with 647,146,799 pts., as compared with 666,697,100 pts. for the first six months of 1922.

Cotton and cotton goods head the list of imports with a total value of 922,640,029 pts., followed by Colonial goods 629,136,989 pts., and cereals and flour 553,500,924 pts.

The total value of imports on which Customs duties were levied amounted to 3,786,595,579 pts., on which the duties totalled 556,203,121 pts., i.e., an average of approximately 15 per cent. *ad valorem*. On cotton goods the duties amounted to 114,636,589 pts.—i.e., an average of 12.4 per cent. *ad valorem*, and on woollen goods the duties amounted to 38,681,048 pts., the value of imports under this heading being 258,581,243 pts.—i.e., 15 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Total imports for the six months under review amounted to £T38,474,991, compared with £T39,173,876 during the corresponding period of 1922 and £T58,523,999 during the first six months of 1921.

Unfortunately, no statement is given under the heading of exports as to whether these include re-exports, but in the absence of a second column for "produits indigènes" it is presumed that all exports are included. The comparative totals of exports for the first six months of the past three years are as follows:—1923, £T12,941,948; 1922, £T13,177,856; 1921, £T12,360,403.

It will be seen, therefore, that Turkey's trade balance has been relatively unchanged since 1922, there being an adverse balance of £T25,533,043 for the period under review this year, as compared with £T25,996,020 in 1922.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S TRADE POSITION.

The British Commercial Secretary at Prague reports that Czecho-Slovak trade figures for the month of September, just published by the State Office of Statistics, show that exports amounted to 897,935,886 Kc. and imports to 891,375,861 Kc., showing a balance of only 6,578,027 Kc. in favour of exports. This is by far the lowest active balance that has been shown this year, and is due not only to the large falling off in exports, but also to a very great increase in imports, especially in raw cotton. The trade balance for the first nine months of this year is as follows: Exports, 8,500,699,454 Ks.; imports, 6,507,713,283 Kc.; balance in favour of exports, 1,992,986,171 Kc.

At the meeting of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce, on November 8, Mr. R. L. Barclay, C.B.E., presiding, Mr. A. de V. Leigh, M.B.E., M.A., was appointed secretary of the Chamber in succession to the late Mr. Charles E. Musgrave.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

CONSTANTINOPLE.

L. STEEG, Director-General.
A. H. REID, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR, E. HODLER } Sub-Directors. DJEVIAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

General Committee.

LONDON.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN, C.B.E.
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THE EARL OF BESSBOROUGH, C.M.G.
THE EARL OF CHICHESTER, O.B.E.
SIR W. GUY GRANET, G.B.E.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I. K.B.E., C.I.E., M.P
LORD HILLINGDON.
GENERAL THE HON. SIR HERBERT A. LAWRENCE, K.C.B.
LORD ORANMORE AND BROWNE, K.P., P.C.
LIEUT.-COL. SIR ALBERT STERN, K.B.E., C.M.G.

PARIS.

LE BARON DE NEUFLIZE, C.V.O.
JEAN BOISSONNAS.
CHARLES DE CERJAT.
HORACE FINALY.
GEORGES HEINE.
ARSENE HENRY, G.C.V.O.
BARON HENRI HOTTINGUER.
RAOUL MALLET.
LE COMTE FREDERIC PILLET-WILL.
FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.
PARIS: 7, Rue Meyerbeer.
MARSEILLES: 41-43, Rue Grignan

CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

Drafts and telegraphic transfers issued. Letters of Credit granted.
Exchange and Merchandise operations effected.

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Company Meeting.

SUDAN PLANTATIONS SYNDICATE.

Chairman's Latest Visit.

The sixteenth ordinary general meeting of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate, Limited, was held on November 8 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C. Mr. F. Eckstein (the chairman of the company) presided.

The Secretary having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—I presume it will be your wish that the directors' report and balance-sheet, which have been in your hands for some days, shall be taken as read. In moving the adoption of same I would like to say at once that the outstanding feature of our last year's operations was good progress all round.

The erection of buildings for our staff proceeded, large new areas were prepared for cultivation, 40 new gins were added to our factory at Wad Medani, and, last but not least, the new pumping installation at Wad el Nau was completed, and all the work necessary for the doubling this year of our area under cotton in the Gezira was carried through.

On the other hand, our profit and loss account may perhaps not be quite up to your expectations. Gentlemen, this should not disquiet you. After a lengthy stay in the Sudan at the beginning of this year, I have returned with unshaken confidence in the soundness and ultimate success of our undertaking. We are working on right lines in a country whose future is bound up with steady progress in agricultural development. No one, in my opinion, is more convinced of this than that very efficient Government in Khartoum.

The Balance-Sheet.

Following our usual practice, let us first examine the balance-sheet. On the debit side you will find the share capital increased by £150,000, thus making it now £450,000. These new shares, which we offered to you at a moderate premium, were all taken up with the exception of 175 shares, arising mostly through fractions—which we disposed of in the open market at the then ruling price. Our share premium account has consequently risen from £411,211 14s 6d. to £636,744 5s. 7d. Hosh reserve account is raised by £40,000 to £80,000. The other items do not require any explanation, except the profit and loss account, to which I will refer presently.

On the credit side you will find rather heavy increases all round, owing to our policy of rapid development.

The first item we used to call concession and land account. This year we have done away with the word concession and substituted the heading "Zeidab Station" and land account. The reason for this change is that the Sudan Government, having satisfied themselves that we have complied with all the terms of the concession, have now signed the deeds entitling us to the freehold of the property. This, I am convinced, will please you as it pleases your board.

Zeidab development is practically unchanged, but Zeidab pumping station is increased by £4,333, and will be further increased this year. In explanation I must tell you that the irrigation water supply at this station is obtained by two separate but adjoining pumping installations. Each unit consists of two 30-in. centrifugal pumps driven by two steam engines of about 300 horse-power each. The output of each pump is 1·5 cubic metres per second, thus making the total output 6 cubic metres per second, whilst the actual requirements of the estate are about 3 cubic metres per second. Now, we have experienced during the last few years considerable difficulties in obtaining the necessary local wood fuel supply, and, in view of the highly satisfactory oil fuel consumption results at Hosh, we felt it advisable to replace one steam pumping set by a Diesel oil engine installation. This will cost us about £20,000 to £25,000—against which outlay we anticipate a considerable saving in our fuel bill.

It is obvious that any saving such as this in costs of production would be of considerable importance, and particularly so in the event of any future decline in cotton prices. Wad el Nau pumping station is now finished and figures at £177,312 14s. 6d. Pumping is in full swing.

Gezira area development, canalisation, buildings and furniture, ginning factories, light railways, all show substantial increases.

The stock of cotton remaining unsold on June 30 has been valued on a conservative basis.

Our total shipments for the past year, inclusive of 241 bales purchased locally, amounted to 12,266 bales, of which 6,890 bales, including the whole Zeidab crop, had been sold by June 30. To-day I am happy to inform you that the remaining 5,376 bales have all been disposed of at prices exceeding our valuation. A new entry is Sadani Concession, £1,000.

We have taken an option on two estates comprising about 22,000 acres, situated in the former German East African Colony. A certain amount of cotton was grown by the former owners, and we are having the property examined by an expert. At this stage we are unable to say whether this venture will prove profitable or not; in any case our risk is very small.

Two further new items refer to the new Kassala Cotton Company. From a circular which was sent to all shareholders in January last you will have seen that in this new company, of which I have more to say later on, your syndicate subscribed 250,000 six per cent. preference shares of £1 each, now 1s. paid up, and 500,000 ordinary shares of 1s.

Now, you will notice that instead of the 500,000 shares only 475,000 figure in our balance-sheet. The reason of this is that during my absence in the Sudan before the shares were dealt in my colleagues passed a resolution placing at my disposal 25,000 shares at par: these shares to be distributed between myself and two of my colleagues who assisted me in the long negotiations with the Sudan Government which resulted in the formation of this company. In passing this resolution your board stipulated that you should be fully acquainted with these facts. I am naturally grateful to the board for what they have done, but I also desire to have your approval, which I feel sure you will not withhold.

British Government securities and cash at the end of our financial year amounted to close on £829,000, which is comfortable and satisfactory, but necessary and wanted in the near future. To carry out all the operations necessary to the entire fulfilment of our programme further funds will be required.

Profit and Dividends.

Turning to the profit and loss account, you will see that our income from all sources amounted to £203,829, whilst the outgoings, in which we included, as usual, a bonus to our staff and a sum to the staff provident fund, were £118,748, leaving us with a net profit of £85,081.

In connection with our expenditure I feel bound to point out that heavy outlay is now incurred, and that this outlay will be still greater owing to our having to train a considerable British staff in anticipation of the completion of the Makwar dam and the consequent increased area which we shall have to deal with all at once.

Regarding the Makwar dam, the Sudan Government have notified us that they expect to finish this in July, 1925. A definite notification will not be given to us until July next year, viz., 1924, but we have to be prepared for such a contingency.

In July we paid you an interim dividend of 7½ per cent., and we now propose to pay you a final dividend of 10 per cent., making 17½ per cent. in all, and to add £6,331 11s. 8d. to our carry forward.

When addressing you last year I said, in connection with the 50 per cent. increase of our capital:—"You will readily understand that it is difficult for your board to maintain the same standard of dividends in the immediately following year."

Gentlemen, this exactly has happened, but to-day I think I can say that, subject to crop results, we shall certainly hope to do better during the current season, as we have a considerably larger area under cotton.

Cotton Crops.

Let me now tell you what our stations have done.

Zeidab.—I ventured to forecast last year a profitable result of our operations there. This, I am happy to say, has come true. We had a good crop, and realised it at good prices. For the coming year the prospects are likewise promising. We have already picked something like 9,000 kantars, and the first shipment is on the way. Last year we had 4,317 feddans under cotton. This year, including water tenants, we have a somewhat larger area.

Tayiba has also done well. From 1,680 feddans we gathered 7,457 kantars, or nearly 4½ kantars per feddan. This year we have 1,765 feddans under cotton, but the crop has suffered somewhat from heavy rains, necessitating a good deal of re-sowing.

Barakat yielded 8,186 kantars from 2,006 feddans, just slightly over four kantars per feddan, which is quite satisfactory.

Hosh.—At the time of our meeting last year the crops at this station promised to be extraordinarily good, but,

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unfortunately, later on we suffered rather badly from an insect pest called thrips, which reduced the expected yield very considerably. However, we managed to pick 23,392 kantars, equal to 3½ kantars per feddan.

In addition to these stations, we have this year the new areas served by the Wad el Nau pumping station, and extending roughly to 10,000 feddans, which means that our cotton area in the Gezira is doubled. These additions augur well for the future, and speak highly for the activities of our staff in the Sudan.

According to our latest cables, it is too early to express an opinion regarding the new crop, but this much appears certain, we shall have to deal this year with a rather late crop, which in itself is never quite satisfactory.

A Personal Inspection.

As mentioned before, I spent the early part of this year in the Sudan, and you might probably like to hear something of my work there and of the impressions I formed.

I left England towards the end of last year and arrived towards the middle of January at Port Sudan, where I was met by our managing director, Mr. Alexander MacIntyre, and our manager, Mr. H. Poyntz-Wright, and, during the whole of my time in the Sudan, I had always at my disposal the ripe experience and wise counsel of these friends, and I wish to record my grateful thanks to them. We stayed two days at Port Sudan inspecting the harbour, its shipping facilities and a ginning factory belonging to the Government, and we selected some plots of land suitable for warehousing cotton in the future.

We then motored to Suakin, and again from there to Tokar, which I was most anxious to see, it being a large cotton area, producing cotton of very fine quality. But what interested me even more was the fact that the conditions under which cotton is grown in Tokar are similar to those ruling at Kassala. In both places cotton is planted after the annual flood, and thereafter receives no further watering. I think I saw everything I wished to see, and my thanks are due for the great courtesy and assistance I received from all the Government officials there. From Tokar I returned to Suakin, and went by train to Zeidab, our most northerly station. In company with our senior inspector there, I visited the whole estate, and renewed my acquaintance with all our officials.

The crop at Zeidab, consisting of American cotton of an early maturing kind, was nearly gathered, and, as I have already told you, was very satisfactory; so I left in good heart for Khartoum, where I paid my respects to his Excellency the Governor-General and other officials. After two days I left for Barakat, which is the headquarters of our syndicate's operations.

Pumping Stations.

After my arrival there I lost no time in visiting all our stations, where picking was in full swing, and where I heard for the first time no complaints as regards lack of labour. I have already dealt with the results of our various stations, and so I wish to say a word or two about our two latest pumping stations.

First, I want to mention Hag Abdulla. Two years ago I saw only a big hole in the ground; now I found a complete pumping installation equipped in the most modern style, throwing out water at the rate of four tons per second, and enabling us to irrigate something like 6,000 acres of cotton on the Hosh area. The plant was working without a hitch, and does not give us an anxious moment.

Next I visited the new Wad el Nau pumping station. Here a year earlier there had not been even a hole in the ground. On my arrival I found very near completion a most perfect installation, and as good as any to be seen in the whole of Africa, and it is certainly a monument of quick work well done. The three pumps are capable of delivering six tons per second, 360 tons per minute, which is equal to 80,000 gallons. The maximum head is 25 metres, and the rising main is 6 ft. diameter and 2,170 ft. long, and is capable of irrigating 10,000 feddans of cotton land.

The firm of Messrs. W. H. Allen, Sons, and Co., of Bedford, manufactured the pumps and supplied and erected the whole plant. The execution of this work ahead of contract time reflects great credit upon this firm.

Barakat pumping station is an old installation and not satisfactory, but it will not be needed much longer. Tayiba pumping station was working well.

Kassala Cotton Company.

After a week's stay at Barakat I left with Mr. MacIntyre and Mr. Hewison, Director of Agriculture, for Kassala. This trip took nearly a fortnight, half of which was spent at Kassala and the Gash Delta. Full particulars of this new company were given to you in the circular and memorandum issued to all shareholders in January last. What I want to tell you to-day is that I visited the whole area from south to north and west to east—it has a length of something like 50 to 60 miles, and varies in breadth—and that I am satisfied that you are interested in a very promising concern, but for results you must have patience.

The new company will plant their first crop in 1924, but works such as digging channels have already started. It may interest you to hear that during the past year something like 13,000 kantars of good cotton was picked in the Kassala Province.

Whilst at Kassala we had the privilege of meeting his Excellency the Governor-General and several members of his Council, and consequently were enabled to have useful and helpful conferences regarding future developments there.

Again at Kassala we were treated with the greatest courtesy and experienced wonderful hospitality from all the officials stationed there, and I would like to put on record my warm appreciation and gratitude.

We left Kassala full of confidence in the future and returned *via* Khartoum to Barakat, where I spent another most interesting fortnight inspecting chiefly the outlying areas of the 300,000 acres scheme.

A Big Enterprise.

Gentlemen, I wish I had the ability of conveying to you even an imperfect picture of the magnitude of this undertaking.

You will realise it to some extent when I tell you that the length of the area is something like 60 miles—say, from here to Northampton whilst the width varies from 10 to 20 and 25 miles. The major canalisation extending from the Makwar dam through our area amounts to near 900 miles, whilst the minor canalisation amounts to something like 11,000 miles.

To inspect this area, to see its soil, to visit its villages, and to talk to their inhabitants, takes days and days of constant motoring, and though I tried my best to do as much as possible, I do not suppose I have seen half of it.

You will want to know how we propose to work and organise such an immense task. Well, we propose to divide these 300,000 acres into twenty stations of about 15,000 acres, and each block will be self-contained and will be managed by a chief inspector, whose house, office, clerks' house, etc., will be erected in the centre of the block, whilst on either side of him will be the houses for the assistant inspectors. We are now in the midst of carrying out this programme, and have actually completed so far about five blocks.

We have also to build and erect four new ginning factories, two of which we hope to complete during the coming year.

During my stay I also visited the Makwar dam, and was informed that there is every likelihood of its being finished in 1925 and ready to supply water for a considerable number of acres. We therefore have to get ready and speed up work more than ever. To illustrate what I mean, we have to develop and to arrange for the minor canalisation of the greater part of the 300,000 acres area before July, 1924, in order to be able to start ploughing in October, 1924, an area commensurate with the anticipated water supply from the dam in the first year.

Gentlemen, I feel I could go on for ever so long telling you of our activities, but I am afraid I have kept you too long already, and I will, therefore, shortly summarise some of the impressions I gathered during my stay in the Gezira.

After an interval of two years and on closer inspection, I find more people available for cultivation, due to an evident increase of population and to the influx of Hausa, Fellata, and other tribes from Nigeria and other places.

These West Africans appear to be a useful, peaceful, and law-abiding community, who work in perfect harmony with the older inhabitants of the Sudan.

Amongst our old tenants I noticed unmistakable prosperity, evinced by increase in their families and larger stock of cattle, such as camels, donkeys, sheep, and goats on the cultivated areas.

Research Work.

Another matter of considerable interest is an agreement come to between the Sudan Government and your syndicate, by which it is intended to reorganise our present research work. Sir John Russell, the famous Principal of Rothamstead, and Mr. Leake, Cotton Expert to the Indian Government, are on their way to the Sudan for the purpose of investigation and making recommendations in this respect. We are all greatly looking forward to the report of these gentlemen, which, I have no doubt, will prove to be of the utmost value to us and to the Government.

Now just one digression—on my homeward journey I was shown by a friend in Cairo a report of a speech made in Khartoum by the late Lord Cromer not long after the reconquest of that country. In that speech Lord Cromer mentioned that he would like to see in time to come the construction of railways from Suakin to Atbara, from Khartoum to El Obeid, from Atbara to Kassala; further, a dam

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or two on the Blue Nile; and, lastly, the development of the Gezira plain.

Gentlemen, all these projects have either been carried out or are in process of completion in the near future for the great and lasting benefit of the Sudan.

It is difficult to say what to admire most—the sagacity and foresight of that great Proconsul or the grim determination of the Sudan Government, with its restricted means, to realise these visions. Your syndicate, I am proud to say, has played its humble part in the part execution of some of these schemes, and it is for this reason that I mention this matter.

Before resuming my seat, I would like to pay a well-deserved tribute to our staff and to the admirable way in which they have discharged their duties, living, as they do, in a hot country and trying climate. One and all in their various spheres have worked well and done their best in the interest of your syndicate.

Gentlemen, I beg to move: "That the report of the directors and statement of accounts to June 30, 1923, now laid before the meeting, be, and that the same hereby are received and adopted."

Lord Lovat's Speech.

Lord Lovat, K.T. :—Gentlemen,—In rising to second the adoption of the report, I have very little to add to what the chairman has said. He has told you that the area is to be doubled in this year's crop, and that, with gravity water coming in 1925, we really begin to get at the great scheme at which we have been working for so long in a preliminary way. The chairman has also insisted on the great developments which have got to occur in putting 100,000 acres of cotton into the ground. When I tell you that I have just come back from America—from the cotton belt there—and was assured that the biggest single cotton operation in America held in one hand was only 15,000 acres, you can imagine what the size of our undertaking is relative to anything else that exists in the world.

Mr. Eckstein has said a few words on the subject of his voyages, but I think you must recognise that, although he goes out to the Sudan and faces the rigours of the climate there every year, this is not the greater part or even half of the work he does for the syndicate every year. We are indeed fortunate in having in Mr. Eckstein a man who, with his other important interests, is able to put, and insists upon putting, so much time into his pet child—the Sudan Plantations Syndicate.

As the individual who was in the chair at the time we voted the 25,000 1s. shares in the Kassala Cotton Company at par to be placed at the disposal of our chairman, I hope you will homologate the decision made on that occasion, because we feel that, in carrying the negotiations to a successful issue—which Mr. Eckstein and those colleagues who were especially associated with him in the matter actually did—we added, at all events on paper, something like a sovereign to the value of our shares, and I think that the offer we have made to him is not in any way out of place. In view of the fact that we shall want the whole of your support as shareholders during these trying and anxious three years which are ahead of us before we get this great scheme going in its full capacity, I hope that the report which is set before you now may be accepted by a unanimous vote. I second the resolution.

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the dividend recommended was declared.

The retiring directors (Lord Lovat, K.T., and Brigadier-General A. M. Asquith, D.S.O.) were re-elected, and Messrs. Cooper Brothers and Co. were reappointed auditors.

A further resolution was passed as an extraordinary resolution making certain alterations in the articles of association.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman and directors.

NEW COMPANIES.

Arinis (Roumania) Oilfields.

The Arinis (Roumania) Oilfields, Ltd., has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £150,000 in 2s. shares. The objects are to acquire any petroleum or oil-bearing lands and mines in Roumania or elsewhere, and to carry on the business of miners, refiners, and producers of petroleum and other mineral oils, etc. The first directors are: W. E. Bousfield, 3, Fitzalan Road, Finchley, N., barrister; H. D. Jonas, Ridgeway, Limpsfield, Surrey, chartered surveyor; and J. W. Tilley, The Knoll, Northwood, Middlesex, stockbroker. The registered office is at 5, London Wall Buildings, E.C.2.

Navarino Recovery.

Navarino Recovery, Ltd., has been registered as a public company, with a nominal capital of £50,000, in 2s. shares, with the object of acquiring the whole of the undertaking of the Navarino Corporation, including the benefit of a concession granted by the Greek Government in respect of the right to raise from the bottom of the sea at Navarino the remnant of the Turco-Egyptian fleet, and to carry on in the Bay of Navarino and elsewhere the business of salvors, etc. The first directors are:—E. Anderson, 16, Caroline Street, Bedford Square, W.C. (director of Navarino Corporation); Sir Hubert de la Poer Gough, Burrows Lea, Gomshall, Surrey (director of Siemens Bros.); N. Eumorfopoulos, 24, Pembridge Gardens, W.2. (hon. secretary of the Anglo-Hellenic League); M. Horner, 7, Hogarth Road, S.W.5 (chairman of the London Board of the State Assurance Co.); G. S. Luck, 33, Longridge Road, Earl's Court, W. (director of Grahame Luck and Co.). The registered office is at Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, E.C.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contract, and must be made by the date mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Uniforms, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms and boots required for the financial year 1924-1925. December 17.

The next International Cotton Congress will be held at Vienna, in June, 1924.

Palestine's exports during August amounted in value to £E180,000, against imports of £E356,000.

The Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., announce that the approximate fields' gross production for the month of October was 18,320 tons.

Mr. Felix J. C. Pole, General Manager of the Great Western Railway, left London on November 13 for the Sudan, where he is to investigate the possibility of effecting economies in the working of the Sudan Government Railways and auxiliary services.

A substantial order for water turbines has just been received by Vickers, Limited (Hydro-Electric Department) from the City of Winnipeg. These turbines are for extension to the power station at Point du Bois on the Winnipeg River, but they are of much larger capacity than the turbines already installed. Three units have been ordered, each of 7,300 h.p., the head being 45 ft. Over 750 tons of water turbines have been shipped to India and New Zealand from Messrs. Vickers' shops since June of this year.

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The Bank is prepared to transact Banking business of every description in and connected with Persia and Mesopotamia; and in London grants Drafts, Telegraphic Transfers and Letters of Credit, and negotiates or collects Bills on Persia and the Near East.

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In Egypt the Bank's principal office is at Alexandria; but it also has agencies throughout the cotton-growing districts, and specialises in all operations connected with the moving of the cotton crop.

In Turkey the Bank has a branch at Constantinople.

For information as to terms of business, etc., apply to the HEAD OFFICE:

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Authorised Capital - - - -	£600,000
Paid-up Capital - - - -	£485,580
Reserve - - - - - - - -	£150,000

BANQUE COMMERCIALE ITALIENNE & BULGARE, SOFIA.

Capital - Leva 12 millions.
Reserves - Leva 556,000.

FILIATION DE LA BANCA COMMERCIALE ITALIANA, MILANO.

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Managing Governors in India:—
Sir ROBERT AITKEN
Sir BERNARD HUNTER
London Manager:—
Sir NORCOT WARREN, K.C.I.E.

Authorised Capital - -	Rs. 11.25.00.000
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

ROBERT CAMPBELL, Esq., *Chairman*. ROBERT WILLIAMSON, Esq., *Deputy Chairman*.
SIR JOHN P. HEWETT, G.C.S.I., K.B.E., C.I.E. ROBERT MILLER, Esq.
SIR CHARLES C. McLEOD. J. DUNCAN NIMMO, Esq. J. N. STUART, Esq. J. A. TOOMEY, Esq.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 654—Vol. XXIV THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Wise Counsels in Greece.

The friends of Greece will learn with profound satisfaction of the decision arrived at by the Athens Government not to enforce the death sentences passed on the leaders of the recent insurrection. There is now hope that, from this wise step, the Revolutionary Committee will proceed to others. It has given a long rope to the Republicans, but the sooner it strangles their movement, before the movement strangles the country, the better. The pronounced hostility of France to the late King Constantine and his eldest son and Great Britain's refusal to recognise King George II. may be in part responsible for the belief that Greece might fare better as a Republic than as a Monarchy. But neither Great Britain nor France intended this interpretation to be placed on their actions. There is nothing in the history of Greece or in the psychology of the people to lead us to suppose that a Republican form of government would bring unity or peace to the country. M. Venizelos holds that the dynasty is unnecessary to Greece, and so far from regarding the people as unripe for a Republic, he fears that they are less ripe for a democratic Monarchy; but even he, with his personal antagonism to the late King Constantine and his whole family, does not approve of the proposal to set up a Republic by force or by a snatch vote. Any such change, he points out, would seriously prejudice Greece abroad in respect of possible financial assistance.

The Economic Problem.

It was inevitable that, in the apparently hopeless tangle into which Greek politics have been twisted by recent events, M. Venizelos should seem to some to be the only man able to save the country. An appeal has been made to him to return to Greece; but, as far as is known, he has definitively rejected it. Even so, there is no need for the Greeks to despair. Unless all signs are at fault, the insurrection and its failure have steadied both the politicians and the people, and, provided that there is no further bloodshed, good may result from the crazy act. The clemency shown to the insurgents—which still needs to be rounded off by a general amnesty—presents the Revolutionary Committee in a much more favourable light, and can hardly fail to have secured for the individual members exemption from any personal consequences for the execution of M. Gounaris and his fellow-Ministers. As a political unit, however, they must withdraw from power if Greece is to stand on her feet again. Only by this means can the country escape from the fatal legacy which has divided it into two bitterly hostile camps. There can be little doubt as to Greece's recuperative powers if she will devote her attention to material reconstruction instead of to barren politics. Her refugee problem is on a fair way to solution if she can secure a return to a normal state of politics which will reassure financial interests abroad. Production stands to be greatly increased by the addition to her population as soon as the Refugee Settlement Commission has been able to carry its plans into effect. There is plenty of administrative ability in Greece, if it will allow itself to concentrate on administrative matters instead of on a political vendetta.

Elections in Bulgaria.

Polling for the General Election in Bulgaria took place last Sunday, and has gone overwhelmingly in favour of M. Zankoff's Government. The latter appealed to the nation for a vote of confidence on the ground of what it has achieved during its five months of office. Apart from having brought to an end the Stambolisky régime, it claims to have rendered a lasting service to Bulgaria by the formation of the Democratic Entente, which is to make in the future policies and not persons the dividing line in Bulgarian politics. The Entente incorporates Democrats, Radicals, Nationalists, and M. Zankoff's own Democratic group; it has a working arrangement with the Socialists, but is opposed by the Liberals, and, of course, by the Agrarians and Communists. It remains to be seen whether the Entente will be proof against internal schism. The success of the Government at the elections was a foregone conclusion, but it will be surprising if the polling does not show considerable abstentions. The peasantry on the whole has not its political sense strongly developed; under Stambolisky it was induced to assert itself, but on his

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fall from power it is more than probable that large numbers will revert to their old state of indifference to politics. In these circumstances it will be well for the Government in power not to be misled by a mere parliamentary majority. Stability and strength will come only when the bulk of the people give the Government support of their own free will.

Italy and Fiume.

An article on Fiume appearing on another page may be regarded as a presentation of the question from the moderate Italian point of view. The opinion of THE NEAR EAST on this subject has always been that an arrangement entailing any kind of separation between Fiume and its hinterland must prove unsatisfactory. It was only because Trieste and Fiume were ports of the late Austro-Hungarian empire that both flourished. Trieste is now definitely Italian; Italy wishes Fiume to be so as well, but the hinterland, with its trade, remains Yugoslav. Sooner or later the Italian Government will have to decide between its own *amour propre* and the welfare of the Italian population of Fiume. In so far as the future of the port depends on Yugoslav trade, it can prosper only with Yugoslav goodwill, which cannot be secured by doing violence to the spirit of the Treaty of Rapallo. It is quite true that, if Barosh is in Yugoslav hands, little or none of the traffic from the interior will find its way to an Italian Fiume, and the latter must perish unless it discovers other means of earning a livelihood. With Barosh linked with Fiume, and both forcibly taken over by Italy, the need for an Adriatic outlet might compel Yugoslavia to allow trade to pass to the port at least for a time. On such terms, however, the prosperity of Fiume can never be built up, for it will be only a matter of time before another outlet is found for Yugoslav trade. The long-sighted view would seem to prompt Italy to sacrifice the shadow and to grasp at the substance for the benefit of the Italians of Fiume, who will always keep the port an outpost of Italian culture.

The Reported Agreement.

Nothing in what is stated above is invalidated by the reported terms of the agreement that is now said to have been reached by Italy and Yugoslavia on the Fiume question. It is most desirable that some settlement should be reached, and any compromise is better than a continuation of the controversy. According to the *Corriere della Sera*, the agreement is based on the annexation of Fiume by Italy. The validity of Count Sforza's letter promising Yugoslavia sovereignty over the Delta and the Port of Barosh is recognised by the Italian Government; the northern quay of Barosh, belonging to the territory of Fiume, is to be leased for 99 years to Yugoslavia, and the latter will also receive a free zone within the chief basin of the port of Fiume—a condition which is to form the subject of a separate convention. Unless there are many other details to be filled in under this agreement, it would seem as if the Italian Government had decided to be content with the possession of Fiume and to leave the trade and prosperity of the port to take care of themselves. It is the solution anticipated in Major J. S. Barnes' article, and in this connection his suggestion for a rectification of the frontier will not pass unnoticed.

The Arabs in Palestine.

The situation in Palestine created by the rejection of the scheme for an Arab Agency and by the British Government's resolve to "carry on" without Arab co-operation is dealt with elsewhere in this issue. It may not be without its advantages that the new Arab National Party should come into existence at a moment when the Palestine Government has decided to abandon for the time being its attempt to conciliate Arab opinion. The new organisation, in its published programme, produces no valid argument for any party outside the Arab Congress; but there is just a suggestion of the adoption of different political methods. For the moment its main *raison d'être* would seem to be a desire among a certain section of Arabs to break the monopoly of political leadership enjoyed by a few powerful families. From this stage the leaders may pass to an appreciation of the fact that they will be expected to get some things done that the Arab Congress leaders are not doing. If they realise that only by co-operation with the Government can they hope to exercise any influence on the course of events in Palestine, the future development of Palestine may run more smoothly than it promises to do at present. It is not without significance that the Jaffa municipality, which has hitherto joined in the boycott of the Rutenberg scheme, has now resolved to light the town from the Rutenberg electric installation.

Leadership in India.

The first portion of Lord Reading's extensive tour through India has gone off well, for, while it has been marked by a display of better manners than the big cities of the north have recently exhibited, the speeches, of which reports have reached this country, indicate a firmer grip of the realities of a complex situation. The Viceroy's insistence on the fact that a continuance of communal feuds must stifle all hope of political progress is particularly timely, for there can be no doubt that these feuds dominate the immediate outlook. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru has recently been dilating in this country on the enormous influence which the educated classes have now gained over the Indian masses, but he has not yet expounded the relation between these phenomena. Educated men are leading the people, and the people are spilling blood in religious riots on a scale for which recent years afford no parallel. Are we to attribute the riots to this new leadership, or are we to conclude that the new leaders have not yet learned their work, and are able to stir up passion, but not to control it when aroused? Whichever explanation is correct, we cannot regard the change as entirely satisfactory at the moment.

Reform in Indian Law Courts.

A noteworthy feature of the Viceroy's speech at Lahore was the announcement that the whole question of procedure in civil litigation is to be examined, with a view to drastic reforms. Lord Reading speaks with exceptional authority on this subject, and no layman will question his conclusion that justice is in danger of being enslaved by the formalities of the law. Reform is in fact long overdue, and we wish the venture every success, but at the same time it is impossible to be very sanguine, because in the last resort the question is one of national temperament. So long as clients insist on futile or dilatory proceedings, and are prepared to pay for their fancy, so long will lawyers find themselves forced to work for delay and complexity. Only last week, an eminent King's Counsel practically apologised to the Judicial Committee for pressing hopeless petitions from India on their notice; he knew it was waste of time, but his clients insisted, and it was his duty to comply with their wishes. There is no doubt that the present system can be improved in many of its details, but the ideal of cheap and speedy justice will not be realised in the law courts until

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it is firmly established in the minds of the nation as a whole.

Mr. Massey on India.

The statement issued last week by the Prime Minister of New Zealand contained a phrase which is likely to excite some comment in India. After mentioning that the Imperial Conference had been considering how to make the Indian Constitution more democratic—a word, by the way, which connotes a wider franchise rather than increased powers for small minorities—Mr. Massey went on to express his confidence that India, whether as a whole or divided into several dominions, will remain loyal to the British Empire, and this hint of a partition should come as a Godsend to Indian journalists in search of a grievance. Bengal was partitioned, but the pieces had to be reunited; even the division of an unworkable district is usually prevented by popular clamour; and any suggestion of the forcible dismemberment of the Motherland would open the floodgates with a vengeance. For that very reason it is safe to conclude that responsible statesmen are not likely to attempt to split India from above; the real question is whether a split from inside is not even now in progress. Some observers hold that the Dravidians are moving away from the Aryans, and that the marriage of a few thousand years' standing will ultimately be dissolved on the familiar ground of incompatibility of temper, but the facts are still very obscure, and all that need be said is that, while the Imperial Conference may have to register a divorce, it is not the least likely to do anything to provoke one.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Election.

In the teeth, apparently, of all expert party men's advice, the Premier has decided to hold the General Election on December 6. The official people are dismayed or amazed; the Conservatives thought that they were secure for some time to come, the Liberals can as yet hardly credit their new unity in face of Protection, and the Labour Party are bewilderedly unready. The Premier's honesty has simply taken people's breath away; his breach of the rules of the game is incomprehensible; thus to put principle before office is the most horrid reversion to antiquated type.

The party fogies, as I say, are rather aghast, but, quite apart from the Protection issue, Mr. Baldwin's move, if it is successful, will create a most admirable precedent which cannot possibly be ignored. He has raised the dark rules of politics to the clear heights of individual morality; and in so risking office he has made a huge attack on the principles (i.e., the dogmas) of unclean government. To future students of political science, even more than to students of political economy, his move will be an historical landmark. It is, however, more like a flash in the pan; he certainly does not crystallise any general tendency away from the politician's clinging to office for office's sake.

Its Immediate Aspect.

The hardy political liars and the more foolish controversialists have already started to prophesy on the result of the election, but they never have any reasonable grounds for their opinions. It is, in fact, quite impossible to guess how the election will go, because so many people are undecided. There are the Conservatives who are Free Traders, not all of whom will support Mr. Baldwin; there are the old-fashioned Liberals, not all of whom will tolerate the prospect of a return to power of Mr. Lloyd George; and there are the rank and file of Labour, not all of whom will be convinced by their leaders that Protection is a specious trick. Above all, there are the women. Heaven alone knows what they will make of a subject which even men cannot understand.

A very common attitude prevailing embraces the wish, appallingly light-hearted in the economist's view, to give Protection a run. After all, it is said, there is nothing necessarily permanent in it, and it is not probable that we as a nation can be worse off than we are now. As individuals we may be, of course, in which case we proudly rally to the sacred banner of Free Trade.

But against this sporting spirit is the fact that most of the platform strength is outside and against the present Government. Already effective speeches have been made by such considerable forces as Messrs. Asquith, Churchill, and Lloyd George; and it is not to be supposed that the names of Mr. Austen Chamberlain and Lord Birkenhead will tip the scales against these. The English voter is impossible when he comes under the sway of personality. He swears by the name of so-and-so, and the vices alike of Protection, of the continuance of Free Trade, and of the capital levy become diminished.

The broad facts at the moment are: Mr. Baldwin has something definite to offer, but may be wrong; the Liberals have nothing to offer, but may be right; the Labour Party has nothing definite to offer except the Capital Levy, and may possibly be ignored.

Foreign Affairs.

It seems incredible, but it is quite characteristic, that we should be fighting this election on the question of Protection alone, without more than indirect reference to foreign affairs. For it remains indisputably true that in the condition of things on the Continent lies the crux of the matter. The fact that the Liberals cannot touch the Continental situation, and could not touch it if they were in power, ought to go against them; the fact that the Labour Party would certainly mishandle it ought equally to go against them. For this reason, rather than for any sign of enlightenment in Conservative foreign policy, many votes should be given to Mr. Baldwin.

But if he is returned we shall demand very definitely where Great Britain stands *vis-à-vis* Continental matters. Both sides of opinion, those

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who wish for a definite break with France and those who wish to identify Britain with French policy in Central Europe, are getting more and more impatient. The mere cautioning of France and the counselling of delay in action are sufficient for nobody in this country.

"The Outsiders."

The movements of politicians at this crisis are of engrossing interest. It is with awful, admiring interest that we follow these selfless individuals enrolling themselves respectively under the time-honoured banners of what were once, in distant, pre-War years, their parties. As soon as their country's future is at stake, out they come, to breathe their crisp, rejuvenating wisdom over our wizened land.

But nothing has been so intriguing as the moves of Mr. Austen Chamberlain and of Lord Birkenhead. This pair of noble steeds wished to run in front of the Government chariot, but Mr. Baldwin found them just a little too speedy. How forgiving this nation really is can be seen from its attitude to Mr. Chamberlain; it seemed almost sorry that he, as well as the less considerable, though more brilliant, Lord Birkenhead, should be excluded from our Protectionist Government.

But, in truth, the Premier is to be most heartily congratulated in keeping these two men outside. In a Protectionist Government, the first requisites are honesty and fidelity to principle—the very success of Protection depends almost as much on the honesty of its agents as on itself—and these two men are far too heavily tarred with the unwholesome brush of the Coalition. They are, however, to be allowed the privilege of carolling as gaily as may be on behalf of the Conservative Government; but it cannot be great fun for such waits to sing in the frosty air when all the funds are to pass to other hands.

There is a feeling about this election, which I give for what it is worth, that it may end in a stalemate—the parties being approximately equal, or, at any rate, no one with a workable majority. In this case, the old Centre Party, whose protagonists are Messrs. Lloyd George, Churchill, Chamberlain, and Lord Birkenhead, will revive, and we shall suffer once more the jolly old Coalition. It sounds fantastic, but it is by no means impossible.

The Betting Tax.

Among the momentous events of last week, one thing, not in itself of much importance but of immense significance, was not allowed to pass unnoticed—I mean the death of the betting tax. This little effort to raise an extra copper or two, pitiably little in comparison with the enormous fiscal changes proposed in other fields, has petered out without much lamenting. The Select Committee considering it could not come to any final agreement about it; it did, however, agree that a 2½ per cent. tax "on all betting transactions" was practicable. Thus far and no farther did this project, about which there was so great a cry, get; and no wool gathered.

Music and Brains.

There is nothing, they say, like music for soothing the nerves; so, in flight from the realities of the moment, I sought refuge last week, first in a pianoforte recital by Gieseking at the Æolian Hall and then in an orchestral concert by Aylmer Buesst at the Queen's Hall. But peace was not to be mine. Gieseking is a first-class artist who has his own ideas of interpretation; without being profound, he delves in the uncommon. To listen to him in such a thing as the "Hammerklavier" is, therefore, exercise to the intelligence. He has little use (which was my temporary need) for the meaningless flow of beautiful nothings. The next evening I caught it again in Strauss's "Alpine Symphony." Programme music as a whole I never did immensely admire, but for this particular symphony one eye had to be on the numbers (shown in the orchestra) which marked the sections of the symphony, the other on the programme itself, reading what it was all about! A clever, yet unimpressive work; and certainly no rest for the wicked! I suppose I shall have to wait until Pachmann comes again, or somebody gives us a Mozart symphony.

The Nobel Prize.

Whoever gets the Nobel Prize it is never Mr. Thomas Hardy: whereat we are all discontent. This year it has gone to Mr. W. B. Yeats, at which we are mildly pleased and surprised. Not many people, it seems, know the later works of Yeats, and it is apparently on his earlier work that the Nobel judges have given him the prize. All of us when young, I suppose, raved over Yeats's lyrics and plays; even now the enchantment of "The Hour Glass" and "The Shadowy Waters" never fails to work. But Yeats has turned his back on all his earlier romantic nonsense, and it is rather curious that it is precisely these spurned masterpieces which have now gained for him definite European distinction.

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THE ESSENCE OF INSURANCE IS SECURITY.

A contract for erection of a telegraph line between Kabul and Kandahar, in Afghanistan, has been given to a European firm.

A party of officer students from the Staff College, Quetta, has arrived at Baghdad on a tour of the Mesopotamian battlefields.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson has presented a silver cup for a billiards competition to the Indian Students' Union and Hostel, Gower Street.

Mr. Samuel Raffaeli, the numismatist of the Palestine Museum, who wrote a book on ancient Jewish coins in 1913, died in Jerusalem last Thursday.

The air service between Paris and Bucharest, via Strasbourg, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade, and also the air service between Paris and Warsaw have been suspended for the winter.

King George has conferred honorary membership of the First Class (G.C.M.G.) of the Order of St. Michael and St. George on Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, the Egyptian Prime Minister, who was invested with the insignia of the Order by Field-Marshal Lord Allenby on November 12.

A robbery occurred last week near Mutilleh (Palestine), where a motor-car from Syria was held up by a band of robbers. The criminals, who were wearing British uniform and pretended to be acting officially, searched the car, removed £15,000 in gold, and instructed the occupants to proceed to Safed to claim the money from the Governor.

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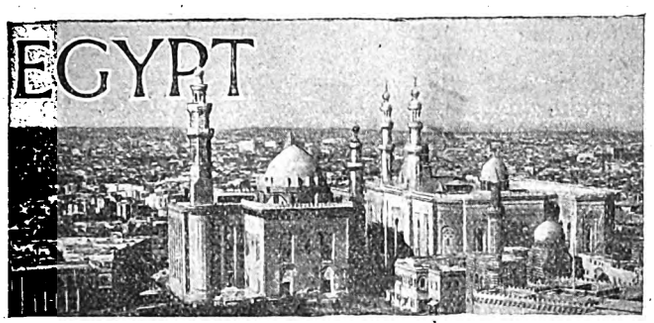
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 10.

The Winter Season.

With the transfer of the Residency back to Cairo and the return of the High Commissioner from England, the winter season, both social as well as political, may be regarded as having started. Viscount Allenby, who was accompanied by Viscountess Allenby and Mr. Clark Kerr, First Secretary to the Residency, arrived by the s.s. Narkunda at Port Said on Wednesday afternoon, and was officially received at the Cairo Station by a British Guard of Honour of the Dorsetshire Regiment. Amongst the company assembled to greet their Excellencies were H.E. Said Pasha Zulfikar, representing King Fuad; Yehia Pasha Ibrahim, the Prime Minister; the Hon. E. Scott, Counsellor at the Residency; Major-General Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar and Governor-General of the Sudan; Lieut.-General Sir Richard Haking, G.O.C. the troops in Egypt.

The Royal Family.

Another happy event occurred in the Royal Family on Thursday, when Her Majesty the Queen gave birth to a daughter. This is the third child born to the King since his marriage with the daughter of H.E. Abdel Rehim Pasha Sabri in 1920, the other two being a daughter and a son. Following His Majesty's practice of giving to his children names beginning with the same letter as his own (her brother and sister having been named Faruk and Fawzia respectively), the little Princess has received the name of Faiza.

Zaghloul Pasha.

Zaghloul Pasha broke his long silence this week. He is reported to be in better health, but has not yet left his house. He was able to preside at a meeting of the Wafd, after which a manifesto was issued denouncing the action of the Government in postponing the elections. While the present political situation is exceedingly confused, there is little doubt that Zaghloul Pasha's shares are rapidly falling to a discount, and it would seem that nothing that "Al Rayess Al Mahmub" can do will re-establish the unity amongst his followers and the promising outlook for the complete success of his cause that existed on his return in September.

This quick change is a remarkable illustration of the disintegrating influence which closer contact with a man of Zaghloul Pasha's temperament has on his followers. Those who knew him best predicted some such result as the present from his return, and their anticipations are fast being realised.

The Date of Parliament.

The fixing of the date for the second degree of the senatorial elections and for those of the deputies means a further postponement of the assembly of Parliament. Not so very long ago it was expected that the new Chambers would be able to meet before the end of this year, but there has been so much confusion and delay that it has been materially impossible to get all formalities completed in the time originally fixed. The second round for senatorial electors-delegate has been fixed for the 25th instant, and the final election of the deputies for January 12. Even supposing that it is found possible to hold the final elections for senators during January, it is not probable that Parliament will be able to assemble before April, since before the summonses can be issued the list of nominations to the Senate must be completed.

Even though the new Parliament may meet in April, a considerable time will necessarily be taken up in drawing up the internal regulations, without which the transaction of business cannot be done. The drafting of these regulations will quite possibly occupy a special committee the best part of the summer, and it is, therefore, considered improbable that any questions of political importance will be handled until November, 1924.

Elections Humours.

Many amusing stories are going the round with regard to the first degree elections. The following are typical samples: In a village in Upper Egypt the summons for the electors to meet at the Markaz was received with great alarm. Recruiting on a vast scale was feared, and dawn on the election day revealed an empty village, all the inhabitants having removed themselves and their belongings to the desert!

At a polling station in Cairo an elector entered to vote for Adly Pasha. Said the supervisor, "Adly Pasha is expensive and will cost you P.T.10, but you can vote for Saad Pasha Zaghloul for P.T.5 only." In this district Saad Pasha scored heavily, no opposition elector-delegate being returned. *Verb. sap.!*

At a village in the Delta several electors on entering the polling booth declared that they had come to vote for Saad Pasha Zaghloul. It was

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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explained to them that Saad Pasha was not a candidate at this centre, but that "So-and-So" was the nominee of the Wafd. The villagers in question repeated their intention, and on its being definitely explained to them that they could not possibly vote there for Saad Pasha they withdrew, declaring that if they could not vote for him they would vote for no one else!

In another village in Lower Egypt the electors voted solidly for Lord Allenby and would not hear of any other candidate.

The Season.

There are indications that Egypt will during the coming winter be visited by an even larger number of tourists than last year. It is to be hoped, therefore, that some steps will be taken to provide better facilities at the Alexandria Customs for those who land there. The arrival of some of the ships has latterly been the occasion for scenes which have positively been scandalous.

The landing of the baggage from the steamers themselves has in each case been effected without difficulty, but it has been in regard to the Customs examination that the trouble has existed. The procedure has been for each passenger to collect his baggage in a pile and take up his position in a queue on the quay outside the Customs shed. Naturally one would expect the Customs officials or several Customs officials to move down the line and examine each pile as it stands. But such procedure would be far too simple. Instead of that, passengers have to wait until the pile of luggage at the head of the queue has been passed, whereupon the whole line of baggage piles is moved up piece by piece to fill the vacant space at the head, just as cabs move up on a cab-rank when the front one picks up a fare. As a result each piece of baggage has to be moved at least twenty times before the "presence" of the Customs Inspector is reached, and consequently an unnecessary amount of labour is entailed, an enormous amount of time is lost, and everyone ends in becoming decidedly jumpy and irritable.

It should surely be possible to devise some less cumbersome, speedier and less vexatious system than that at present in vogue, and it is to be hoped that the Customs Administration, which hitherto has proved itself most efficient and obliging where passengers' baggage has been concerned, will see that some more satisfactory arrangement is introduced before the stream of tourists reaches Egypt.

Special arrangements have been made by the Egyptian State Railways in conjunction with the Sleeping Car Company, Messrs. Thos. Cook and Son, the Anglo-American Nile and Tourist Company, and the Upper Egypt Hotels for trips to Luxor and Aswan at inclusive prices. There are five series, available between November 15 and January 15, which enable visitors and residents to make the journey partly by rail and partly by river, including from five to ten days' hotel accommodation. This departure, which is in part a revival of pre-War arrangements, though somewhat more comprehensive, should prove an attraction to visitors, many of whom have in the past been deterred from visiting Upper Egypt by the relatively heavy cost of such a trip.

ABYSSINIA.

Addis Abeba, October 29.

The Succession Question.

On October 16 Waizero Menen, the charming wife of the Heir-Apparent, Ras Tafari, presented her husband with a second son. It is a matter for satisfaction that this happy event should make the succession doubly secure. The Regent's family now consists of two boys and three girls, and on all who have seen them they create a most pleasing impression of intelligence and good manners. Their future education and upbringing cannot fail to be matters of the highest importance to the welfare of Abyssinia, particularly in the case of the eldest son, who is now seven years old. If Abyssinia is to remain self-governing, her ruling classes must be educated to govern, and it is certain that Ras Tafari—a man educated beyond his fellows—is fully alive to this fact.

Whilst on the subject of the Regent's domestic affairs, I should like to take the opportunity of mentioning that I have recently received from a reliable and competent source a very favourable account of the Regent's health. It is important that the alarmist rumours to which credence has been given in the last few years should be dispelled. Doubts as to the Regent's possessing the requisite physical strength to carry him through the difficult years ahead must obviously tend to impair confidence in his Government and in the stability of the present régime. It is satisfactory, therefore, to be able to state that Ras Tafari is in good health and constitutionally sound.

Abyssinia and the League.

As was expected when I wrote my letter last month, Abyssinia is now a member of the League of Nations, and the Abyssinians, as is natural and right, are well pleased with themselves. The members of the Mission which represented Abyssinia at Geneva are due to arrive at Addis Abeba in a few days' time. They are sure of a great welcome, and to receive suitable marks of the Government's favour. Needless to say, the moment is not opportune to ask an Abyssinian what is to be the next step. The goal has been gained. What further steps are necessary? It would be idle to deny that few Abyssinians or Europeans living in the country expect any progress along the path of reform and of the development of the country to result from the admission of Abyssinia to the League. There is a disposition to consider that entrance was effected too easily, and that the conditions imposed by the Assembly of the League were so vague as to be no conditions at all. I do not subscribe to this view. The interest awakened in Europe and

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America in Abyssinia is altogether too keen for the Abyssinian Government to be allowed to sink back into the apathy from which they have been aroused, and those determined on reform and development have now a lever to hand in the League which before they lacked. The Abyssinians, by gaining admission to the League, have found, maybe, security, but they have not secured rest!

Concessions.

I referred in my last letter to the visit of Sénateur Le Jeune, representing the Belgian Company who have acquired the Alcohol Monopoly. Sénateur Le Jeune left early in October, having succeeded in obtaining from the Abyssinian Government the modifications of the concession which were needed to make it a workable proposition. He left behind him M. Ransquin, the technical expert lent by the Belgian Government, to settle the details of organisation and administration. The exact status of M. Ransquin appears to have been left undefined, and in leaving the matter thus Sénateur Le Jeune was probably wise. M. Ransquin has much experience of Oriental countries, and will create his own position.

Another matter left in suspense was the question of the compensation to be paid to existing distillers, the Abyssinian Government having, somewhat unfairly, refused to take any responsibility in the matter. There is reason to suppose, however, that M. Ransquin will succeed in arriving at an amicable settlement with the parties interested. It is interesting to note that the investigations of the officials of the company have led to the discovery that the existing distillers have been producing a remarkably pure quality of alcohol for sale to the natives and not the poison which has been frequently attributed to them.

Belgium and Abyssinia.

It has been suggested to me that the exploitation of an alcohol monopoly in an African country is not an enterprise worthy of a great European Power, and, of course, it is known that the Belgian Government is at the back of the Belgian concessionaires. My belief is that the Belgian Government have had their eyes on Abyssinia for some years past. They realised the immense potentialities of the country, and were laudably determined that the benefits accruing from the development of the country should as far as possible be reaped by Belgian pioneers. They awaited an opportunity to secure a footing, and they seized the first which offered—the alcohol monopoly. A monopoly on any other commodity in general use in the country—e.g., salt, oil, or cotton sheeting—would have been just as acceptable to them. The monopoly is to be applied in the form of a Government Régie. This arrangement silences the protests of those who say that a monopoly on the import of alcohol is denying equal facilities of trade to all which the Abyssinian Government is pledged by treaty to accord, because the Government has undoubtedly the right to enforce a Régie of its own. But it has also the far more important result of associating the Belgians in a common undertaking with the Abyssinian Government which involves interference or, at least, participation in the control of administrative machinery. Seen from this aspect, I think it can be anticipated that the association will be of considerable value to the Abyssinian Government. Looking at the matter from the point of view of the moral welfare of the Abyssinian people, one can understand that the setting up of well-organised machinery, greased by unlimited capital, for the express purpose of making money out of the sale of intoxicants to natives of Africa should be viewed in many quarters with great apprehension. But, on the other hand, it must be remembered that Belgium is a signatory of the Treaty of Versailles, and pledged, therefore, to "the prohibition of abuses such as . . . the liquor traffic," and that she is also a signatory of the Convention of September 10, 1919, which binds her in more explicit terms to prohibit the distillation of spirits and the importation, distribution, sale and possession of trade spirits in territories under her control in tropical Africa. The Abyssinian Government, too, on entering the League of Nations subscribed to the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles with regard to the liquor traffic, and made a point, I am informed, of making this quite clear during their negotiations with Sénateur Le Jeune. Under a Government Régie, controlled by the Abyssinian Government, assisted by nominees of the Belgian Government, abuses are, in my opinion, less to be feared than when the distillation and sale of liquor are in private hands and practically unrestricted. The League of Nations is in this matter the guardian of the conscience of the civilised world, and, where its own members are concerned, can always intervene to check abuses.

The American Medical Mission.

There is another enterprise just getting under way, which is deserving of more than passing notice, and about the desirability of which there need be no qualms. I refer to the installation of an American Medical Mission at Addis Abeba. A year ago Dr. Lambie, whose devoted labours in Egypt, the Sudan, and recently in Western Abyssinia are known to a wide circle of friends, visited Addis Abeba. The result of his investigations and of his conversations with the Regent on that occasion is that he has now returned to Addis Abeba, under the auspices of the United Presbyterian Church of America, to found a large hospital, equipped with every modern appliance, and served by an adequate staff of doctors, specialists, and nurses. In a year's time Addis Abeba will have a hospital which need not fear comparison with any similar institution in Africa. Favoured with the approval of the Abyssinian Government, regarded as the greatest boon by the general population, backed by the proverbial generosity of the American public, and inspired by the enthusiasm of Dr. Lambie and his wife, the hospital is assured of success from the start—and that is not a thing you can prognosticate of every new venture in Abyssinia. Not the least interesting of Dr. Lambie's schemes is the establishment of a Medical School. To enable a student to fit himself

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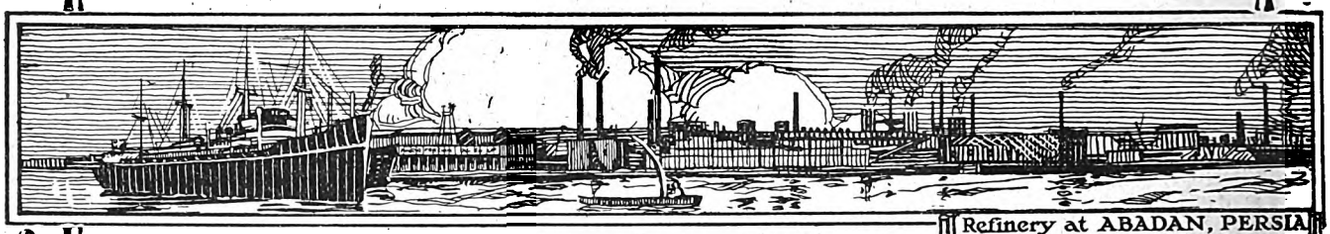

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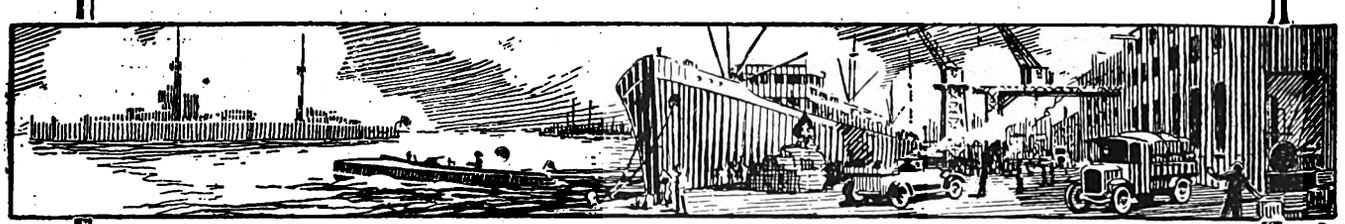

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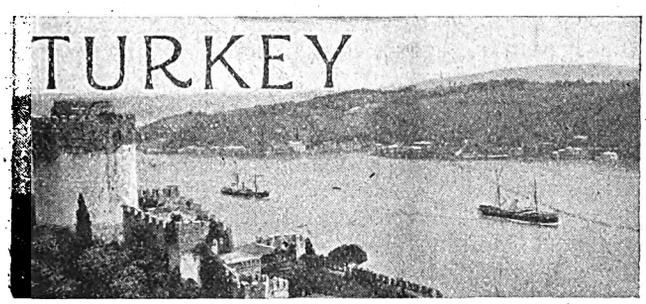
for his medical studies, he must have had the benefit of a good general education. Have we here the germ which is to produce the great effort which must soon be made to tackle the educational problem of the Ethiopian Empire?



Constantinople, November 13.

The Khalifate Question.

The proclamation of the Turkish Republic has brought out into the fierce glare of the Press limelight a number of delicate questions which have for some time been incubating in the cosy warmth of Government committee rooms, and should, if due regard had been paid to the delicacy of their constitutions, have been allowed a longer period of incubation before being exposed to the searching cold of public discussion. The centre of polemics this week has been the position of the Khalif. Articles in the Angora paper, the *Yeni Gun*, which some Constantinople papers describe as scurrilous libels on the person of the Khalif and on members of his family, have set the ball rolling, and the *Aksham* of Constantinople followed up by insisting that, notwithstanding all official and semi-official denials, it was convinced that something lay behind the persistent rumours that His Majesty was thinking of resigning his sacred office.

Being unable to sift the exact truth out of the mass of rumour and counter rumour, I am merely able to point out that the Angora Government is hoist with its own petard. They divorced the Sultanate from the Khalifate, they arranged the succession of the present Khalif, presumably with the intention of using him as a convenient peg on which to hang their grandiose schemes of a Turkish political hegemony over the whole Moslem world. What is now abundantly clear is that, if there is going to be any sort of hegemony over the Moslem world, which is doubtful, it will be exercised by the Khalif as Khalif and not as the puppet of the Grand National Assembly.

The *Aksham*, after postulating the probable resignation of the Khalif, suggests that a pan-Moslem congress would assemble at Constantinople for the purpose of electing a successor to the title. The publication of this item of news must be regarded as a *ballon d'essai* launched by Government circles in order to sound public opinion in Turkey and other Moslem countries. It is common knowledge that the personality of the present Khalif is embarrassing to the Government, for they suspect him of working against them, and they are not sure of their ground if it came to an open struggle between their authority and his influence; they are trying, therefore, to test the force and direction of the wind in order to see whether it would be safe simply to bring about his destruction and trust to the fates—i.e., a pan-Moslem Congress—to elect a more pliable incumbent.

If such was their object, they may be said to have succeeded, for the blindest adherent of the laicisation of Turkey must have realised, on reading his papers last week, the project has not a single friend. A crop of declarations of respectful devotion to the person of the Khalif is coupled with uncompromising hostility to the suggested Electoral Congress, and a well-grounded fear lest it should take it into its head to elect a non-Turk to the Khalifial dignity. One paper, with very delicate irony, suggests that if the Congress takes place in Turkey it could hardly help electing Mustapha Kemal.

On the other hand, the attack on the Khalif and his family has had the serious effect of providing a common ground on which the two wings of the Opposition can meet and collaborate. On this question both the Orthodox Conservatives and the somewhat free-thinking Unionists are agreed, the former on account of their religious convictions, and the latter on grounds of political expediency.

Although it would be presumptuous in a non-Turk and a non-Moslem to lay down any hard and fast judgment concerning the Turks' religious affairs, it does appear that the politicians in Angora are so inexperienced in the showman's business as to imagine that they can gain on the swings without losing on the roundabouts. It does not require a high degree of acumen to predict that sooner or later—probably sooner—they will be forced to choose between the alternative of acquiescing in the reduction of Turkey to the rank of a humble democratic State, shorn of the high status conferred by the possession of the Khalifate, a sort of *tertius inter pares*, or of reverting to something closely resembling the semi-theocratic and semi-autocratic régime of former days.

The Anatolian Railway Line.

An event of first-class importance is the conclusion of an agreement between the Schroeder (Anglo-Swiss) group of financiers represented by M. Huguenin and the Turkish Government regarding the ceding of Anatolian railway line to the successors of its original owners on new conditions agreeable to the Turkish Republic. Competition for this concession has for a considerable time been very keen between the present concessionaries and a British financial group represented here by a Mr. Ricketts, who has recently been moved to explain in the local Press that his competitors are a German group camouflaged as British, whereas his principals are all British. The proposals made by him appear to be that the Turkish Government should buy out the original owners at a cost of about eight millions sterling, an operation which would be financed by his group, and then lease the line to his group. He would seem to have failed, for news arrives from Angora to-day that the Technical Commission of the Assembly has concluded an agreement with the Schroeder group, which it has referred to the Assembly for final sanction. The terms of the agreement have been published, and, apart from certain normal but fairly onerous provisions concerning the working and development of the system, they include one noteworthy innovation—namely, the obligation for the kilometric guarantee is now assumed by the State instead of the Public Debt Administration, as formerly. It would be out of place for me to make any observations on the judgment of the competent negotiators who have accepted this provision, and I can only lay due stress upon the fact that an important financial foreign combine has the requisite confidence in the future of the new Turkey to accept its Government's guarantee in a vitally important matter. This fact may prove to be the deciding

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influence in shaping the course of other financial negotiations with foreign interests which are now proceeding or imminent. The section of the line which is affected by this agreement is that between Haidar Pasha and Konia; the continuation beyond Konia, which is the Baghdad line proper, will for the present. it is reported, be worked by the Government.

Moslems and Greeks.

Parliamentary circles and the Press are still in a state of excitement concerning the alleged atrocities which are being committed on the exchangeable Moslems on Greek territory. The agitation culminated in a full-dress debate in the Assembly during which Ismet Pasha delivered an important speech. His general tone was moderate, and he insisted on the necessity of avoiding precipitate action upon insufficient proof. He clearly showed that he intended to exert his influence against the adoption of the policy of reprisals, but deferred to the clamour in the Assembly in so far that he agreed in the last resort to use reprisals if the alleged state of affairs was proved and continued unmitigated. It is reported that as a consequence of this debate a strong note has been sent to the Greek Government demanding the better treatment of the Moslems; it is to be hoped that the presence at Angora of the recently appointed Greek Chargé d'Affaires will do a great deal towards leading to a better understanding on this and other questions, by affording an opportunity of sifting the true from the false in the flood of mutual accusations which are being bandied about.

Local Matters.

No event of outstanding importance has taken place in Constantinople during the past week. Kiazim Kara Bekir Pasha, Inspector of the First Army, has arrived on a tour of inspection, and was received by the authorities amid the acclamation of the populace, after having been met at Beylerbey by the two inseparables, Reouf Bey and Refet Pasha. The town is full of rumours concerning the extent and significance of his military (and political) mission to Constantinople, but he is very discreet.

The progress of the *affaire* Pera Palace Hotel is rapid and more ridiculous than one could have anticipated. The authorities have now officially announced the sale by auction of all the furniture and contents of the hotel, and have laid down as one of the conditions of purchase that the whole of the furniture must be removed from the building within ten days after the sale under pain of confiscation of the original cautionary guarantee of £T10,000. That puts the Pera Palace Hotel out of business for some months at least. One hopes that the Government will not discover some ground for litigation with the other hotel proprietors, for in that case your readers who are thinking of taking a trip out here will have to content themselves with the expedient adopted at Angora, namely, camping out in a railway carriage.

PERSIA.

Teheran, October 18.

The Arrest of an Ex-Premier.

Considerable excitement was caused in town ten days ago by the arrest by the Minister of War of Ghavam es Saltaneh, who has twice been Prime Minister recently. He is now detained in the Ministry of War, and it is considered probable that he will be deported from Persia to Europe, where he will doubtless join his brother, Vossough ed Dowleh, who negotiated the ill-fated Anglo-Persian Agreement of 1919, but who resigned and left the country without ever seeing it ratified by the Mejliss.

It appears that a plot had been brewing for some time past against Sardar Sepah, with its headquarters in Ispahan, and this having come to the War Minister's notice he immediately hastened to that town by car and apparently caught several of his officers and others napping. He had the Financial Agent, Sardar Entessar, brought to Teheran and imprisoned, and it is expected that he will share the same fate as Ghavam es Saltaneh.

After the arrest of the latter it was thought that others implicated in the intrigues against the War Minister would be arrested, but so far no one else has been, and it seems that by his swift and unexpected action Sardar Sepah very effectually nipped the plot in the bud, and his showing thereby that he will brook no interference with his plans and allow no intrigues should have a good effect on his political opponents.

The Elections.

The elections for the Fifth Session of the Mejliss are nearing their end throughout the country, and instructions have been despatched to the provinces to hasten despatch of the elected Deputies to the capital, so that the requisite number to allow of Parliament's being reopened may arrive in Teheran with as little delay as possible. The list of Deputies for Teheran, twelve in number, was announced some time ago, and consisted mostly of members of the previous Mejliss. Motamen ul Mulk, President of the last House, heads the list, followed by Mushir ed Dowleh, the present Prime Minister, Soleiman Mirza, leader of the Democrat Party, Mustaufi el Mumalek, the ex-Premier, and others, including the lately arrested Ghavam es Saltaneh.

Earthquakes.

Earthquake shocks continue to be felt in different parts of the country, and following on Kerman and the neighbourhood, Bujnurd in Khorassan was the next to be afflicted, and several villages are reported to have been destroyed and some hundreds of casualties to have occurred. The shocks appear to be approaching the capital, and severe shocks have been experienced on two occasions recently at the foot of the dormant volcano of Demavend, some 60 miles to the north-east of Teheran. The district is, however, only sparsely populated, and so far no damage has been reported.

A message from Baghdad states that the Irak Government has resigned.

Zaghloul Pasha has been elected a member for Cairo in the Egyptian Parliamentary elections.

Mirza Fatoullah Khan, Persian Minister in Cairo, has been summoned to Teheran to take up the appointment of Governor of one of the Persian provinces. He will be succeeded by Ali Akbar Khan, Consul-General at Constantinople.

Persia was a signatory to the Geneva Convention in 1906, and it was then decided that she should adopt a red Lion and Sun as the emblem of the organisation corresponding to the Red Cross Society. Only recently, however, have steps been taken to give effect to the good intentions of seventeen years ago. A Red Lion and Sun Society has now been formed, with headquarters at Teheran, under the patronage of the Shah, with the Crown Prince as honorary president, and the Sardar Sepah, Prime Minister and Minister for War, as president.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 22 (New Style).
November 9 (Old Style).
Rabia II. 12, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 14, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Prince Bibesco left Paris last week for Roumania.

Lord and Lady Inchcape left London on November 18 for Stranraer.

The Maharaja of Alwar sailed from Marseilles for India last Friday by the Macedonia.

Mme. Stancioff, wife of the Bulgarian Minister, returned to London last week from Bulgaria with her son and her youngest daughter, Mlle. Hélène Stancioff.

Among the passengers who left London last Friday by the P. and O. s.s. Dongola were Sir Wilfrid and Lady Stokes for Gibraltar, and Prince Limbdi and Sir Cecil Graham for Bombay.

Admiral Sir John de Robeck, Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Fleet, who has completely recovered from his accident in Scotland, has rejoined his flagship Queen Elizabeth at Portland.

The marriage was celebrated on November 10, at All Saints' Church, Ramleh, Egypt, of Fredrick John Roberts Irwin to Irene Ethné Mabel, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry D. Carver, of Ramleh, Egypt.

Sir Thomas Catto, Rear-Admiral H. W. Richmond, and Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. and the Hon. Mrs. Rome left London on November 15 by the P. and O. Bombay express to join the steamship Macedonia at Marseilles for India.

Sir George C. Buchanan, K.C.I.E., Lady Buchanan, Sir Archibald and Lady Birkmyre, and the Hon. Mr. J. P. Thompson are among the passengers intending to embark on the P. and O. s.s. Morea at Marseilles on December 14 for Bombay.

A farewell dinner to Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson and Lady Wilson was given by the Executive Committee of the Ladies' Carlton Club, at 8, Chesterfield Gardens, on November 12. Lady Worthington-Evans, chairman of the Executive Committee, presided.

Under the auspices of the Central Asian Society Col. D. Shuttleworth will to-day (November 22), at 5 p.m., lecture upon "Turkey from the Armistice to the Peace." The lecture, which will be illustrated with lantern slides, will be delivered in the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, S.W.

Mr. K. C. Ray Chowdhry, late Labour member, Bengal Legislative Council, read a paper before the East India Association last Monday at Caxton Hall, Westminster, entitled "India's Working Classes and their Problems." The Earl of Winterton, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for India, presided.

The Walker's Galleries, 118, New Bond Street, W.1, are holding an exhibition of water-colour paintings, entitled "Jerusalem to Palmyra," and other subjects, by Miss Hilda M. Sides. The exhibition will be open until December 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

An exhibition of "Water-Colours of Jerusalem and Galilee," by Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson, is being held at the Brook Street Galleries, 14, Brook Street, New Bond Street, W., from to-day until December 5, inclusive. The Exhibition will be open daily from 10 a.m. till 5.30 p.m.; Saturdays from 10 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Sir Dhunjibhoy and Lady Bomanji have booked their passages on the P. and O. s.s. Mantua, and expect to join the boat at Marseilles on December 7 for Bombay. Capt. the Hon. Lionel Montagu, Mr. McS. J. Williams, O.B.E., and Brig.-General C. H. Whittington, C.M.G., C.B.E., are also expected to travel on the P. and O. s.s. Mantua.

Lady Emily Lutyens held a reception on November 12 at 13, Mansfield Street, on behalf of the National Conference, Delhi, British Auxiliary, to meet Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, representative of the Government of India at Imperial Conference and president of the National Conference, Delhi. Sir Tej B. Sapru left London for India last Thursday.

APPOINTMENTS, PROMOTIONS, &c.

M. Isaac Alcalay has been appointed Grand Rabbi for the whole of Yugoslavian territory.

Mr. Bhagwan Singh Varma has been appointed on unofficial member of the Executive Council of the Colony of Kenya.

Major-General Sir Richard Montagu-Stuart-Wortley will succeed Major-General Sir George MacMunn as Quartermaster-General in India in February.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1923.

STRAIGHT AHEAD IN PALESTINE.

With commendable promptness the British Government has issued a White Paper on the proposed formation of an Arab Agency, containing correspondence between the High Commissioner of Palestine and the Secretary of State for the Colonies between the dates of October 4 and November 9 of this year, and including the history of the most recent proposal and the latest declaration of policy. The story of the Arabs' rejection of one suggestion after another—for the Legislative Council, the elections to which they boycotted, for the Advisory Council, upon which they refused to sit, and for the Arab Agency, which they spurned *in toto*—is well enough known not to need recapitulation here; the important section of the White Paper lies rather in the statement by the Home Government to the High Commissioner that "further efforts (i.e., conciliatory proposals) on similar lines would be useless, and they have accordingly decided not to repeat the attempt. Meanwhile the Mandate has been brought into definite operation. . . . In these circumstances, as all their proposals for closer association of Arabs with the administration have been rejected, His Majesty's Government have no alternative but to continue to administer the country in conformity with their undertaking; even though they have to forgo the assistance that they had hoped to obtain from the Arab community. You are accordingly advised to carry on the administration of Palestine with the aid of an Advisory Council." It may perhaps be objected that this declaration is still sufficiently vague, but it is surely as definite as could be expected in the circumstances, and it is in every way good to have it. The route in Palestine is now clear, and it is to be hoped we shall have no more "fall-outs" on the march. Hitherto the Palestine Government has been a little too eager for side-tracks and diversions from the main business in hand.

What is now needed in Palestine above all things is a strong line, taken by a man who will look neither to the right nor to the left. Such a line is by no means impossible, for many an administrator of British policy in other parts of the world has received less definite instructions than have now been granted to the High Commissioner of Palestine. The future execution of policy in Palestine must be just, progressive, and unswerving. We do not, of course, mean that the country is to be administered with a heavy hand—a policy that can permanently succeed nowhere—but we do mean that the governing of Palestine must be carried on by a man who is neither depressed by apparently chronic opposition nor oppressed by daily, transient difficulties. Tact is necessary, but determination still more so. For the last year or so, we imagine, the sense of the impossibility of the situation in Palestine has to the authorities been a little overpowering, and the attempt, politically, to calm the troubled waters has but resulted, economically, in their stagnation. That fact is the bitter kernel of the present position. Now impartiality is a most admirable virtue, but there is the firm and the weak way of practising it. By means of the former the situation is eventually conquered: if the latter is exercised a deadlock inevitably ensues. Let there be no more tinkering, therefore, with the Arabs; let us desist from offering them Western political devices, and seek, rather, to gain their good will and respect by a display of justice and the straight execution of policy. Having declared "No Trumps" to the malcontents, let us back our hand up to the hilt. This, admittedly, is putting the matter in its crudest form, and we are very far from forgetting the high ideal which Great Britain is in Palestine to realise—the harmonisation of Arab and Jew; but there would at the moment appear to be need of a little more real, human resolution in the conduct of the Palestine Government. And if the present authorities shrink from the task, others must be found in hope less optimistic and in action less pessimistic.

It should not be objected that we are minimising the obstacles in the way of a firm British policy. But even now there are signs that some of the opposition to the Government is cracking. Superficially, it might seem that the rejection by the Arabs of an Arab Agency and the consequent uniting of the Husseini and Nashashibi families (just as Protection has united our Asquiths and Lloyd Georges), were bad from the Government's point of view, but this is scarcely the case. Out of the strange manœuvrings and rivalries of the Arab chiefs has been born the National Arab Party, which bids fair to supersede the more recalcitrant Arab Congress. Before the suggestion of the Arab Agency was made, this new party was spurned by the Congress, but since the rejection of the offer, it has increased considerably in prestige. A short time ago it issued its programme, and though this is no less uncompromising than that of the Arab Congress, it is stated that its methods are intended to be much more moderate and workable. That wisdom is descending upon the Arabs is contained in the assurance that the National Party is willing on certain hard, but perhaps not insuperable, conditions, to co-operate with the Government. Upon its programme alone it is not possible to build much hope, but its emergence is, nevertheless, of significance. It means that there is growing up in Palestine a body of opinion (of cerebral if not so much of tribal distinction) which is unwilling any longer blindly to refuse to face facts, which comprehends that realities cannot for ever be flouted, which will, in short, recognise that British policy is to be carried on. That the Government's policy will be liked is for some time improbable, but that it will not be baulked is increasingly probable. As in Switzerland, in Canada, in Great Britain even, two or more more or less hostile races eventually settled down together—for the most part, perhaps, for economic reasons—so it must be believed that Arab and Jew will ultimately settle down in Palestine. But no more weakness and pandering on the part of the Administration, for it is high time that the Arabs should see as plainly as can be seen in this country what they have to face and what they have to gain; it is high time, too, that the impossibility of a Jewish political ascendancy is demonstrated. And these things can be done only by means of infinite patience and determination—in other words, by government. If Great Britain cannot rule Palestine so as to win the consent of the governed, certainly no one else at the present time can; but the policy of wobble and of inaction must cease.

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FIUME.*

By J. S. BARNES.

At the best of times the delimitation of frontiers is a task of great difficulty. Where, as in the Balkans, conflicting elements, geographical, ethnographical, economic, military, have to be reconciled as far as may be, it becomes almost impossible to produce an entirely satisfactory result.

The negotiations for a solution of the Adriatic question may be divided conveniently into three phases.

The first, on the basis of the Treaty of London on the one hand, and on Italy's claim to Fiume and Yugoslavia's claim to the old Italo-Austrian frontier on the other, closed with the departure from Paris in April, 1919, of the Italian Delegation, following President Wilson's proclamation.

The second phase, aiming by discussion in conference at a compromise, failing which the integral application of the Treaty of London was to be applied, lasted from May, 1919, to January, 1920, and ended in a deadlock, chiefly owing to D'Annunzio's occupation of Fiume and the concurrent feebleness of the Italian Government under Signor Nitti.

The third phase, after the initiation of direct negotiations between Italy and Yugoslavia, ended in a compromise solution with the Treaty of Rapallo, signed on Noveber 12, 1920, by Signor Giolitti, Count Sforza, MM. Vesnitch and Trumbitch.

This Treaty, together with the Supplementary Convention of Santa Margherita (signed in Rome on October 23, 1922, by Baron Schanzer and M. Antonievitch), was subsequently ratified by both parties—on the Italian side after the Fascist revolution, a point of some importance in that it demonstrates Signor Mussolini's moderation, as well as his keen sense of honour and of realities. Both instruments have also been recently registered with the League of Nations.

The final liquidation of the Fiume question is likely to take place in the near future. Both parties are anxious for a settlement in order that the political animosities subsisting in the minds of the two peoples may fall into the background and be replaced by a friendly spirit based on common commercial and economic interests. Both Signor Mussolini and M. Pashitch are doing their utmost to temper the ardour of their extreme partisans; for these statesmen, who have behind them the Treaty of Rapallo, which, by forming the point of departure of the present conversations, narrows the actual differences of opinion to comparatively small proportions, are determined to prevent the Fiume question from assuming an exaggerated importance in the eyes of the public, and thereby jeopardising what may be called the major common interests of the two countries.

Whenever the Fiume question is brought before the notice of the British public, as it was recently owing to the open failure of the Commission set up under the Treaty of Rapallo to produce a solution of the vexed question of Port Barosh and the Delta, there is a tendency to debate anew the whole Adriatic question, instead of fixing the attention, as the protagonists, Signor Mussolini and M. Pashitch, do themselves, on the comparatively small differences still awaiting a practical solution. Such a debate serves no useful purpose. On the contrary, it merely adds fuel to the fire of the extremists in both Italy and Yugoslavia and helps to exasperate public opinion in these countries against England, who is represented as taking sides against what is regarded in each country as just (for, unfortunately, it is generally the unfriendly article which receives the greater publicity) in a matter which concerns England very little, if at all.

A proper judgment, therefore, on the outcome of the present conversations about Fiume should be based on an appreciation of what was finally settled and what was not settled by the Treaty of Rapallo and the Convention of Santa Margherita.

Here follows accordingly a summary of the principal points on which agreement was reached, together with a few salient considerations by way of commentary.

1. The land frontier between Italy and Yugoslavia is defined. Starting from Mt. Pecs (a point at which the Italian, Yugoslavia, and Austrian frontiers touch), it follows the main chain of the Alps (except here and there, where the physical nature of the country is unusually broken, for the sake of local communications) to Monte Nevoso, whence it cuts down to the sea at the top of the Gulf of Fiume, leaving Castua to Yugoslavia and Porto Priluca to Italy.

This is practically the line of the Treaty of London. It is, except in quite minor details and in the section from Monte Nevoso to the sea, what any impartial person with an eye to topography would regard as the natural frontier between the two countries. Travelling up by any road eastward from the plain of the Tagliamento or from the Adriatic seaboard, you come eventually against a wall of mountain or to an arid, elevated no-man's-land. Everyone living on either side of this striking barrier lives, as it were, with his back to it; and although there are tens of thousands of Slovene and Croatian peasants living on the western side in districts where Italian is rarely heard, the chief concern of all of them is the desire to be united at all costs with the coast and with the plain; for there are their markets—markets, moreover, in which their special products (butter and cheese) fetch exceptional prices, and always will, in comparison with neighbouring Yugoslav markets, where such products abound.

Again, if you cross the barrier, you will find the Slavs on the other side, thinking no more of the sea, but looking eastward to Liubliana and Zagreb as their metropolitan centres.

In default, therefore, of giving the whole of Istria, with Goriza, Trieste, Pola, and the other Italian towns of the fringe to Yugoslavia (a manifestly absurd and impossible solution), the line as established by the Treaty of Rapallo is, as nearly always with a good geographical boundary, the one

* Reference to this article is made in the Notes of the Week.

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which protects and promotes the major interests of the border inhabitants.

The line is an equally good one from the hydrographic standpoint (a consideration only too often forgotten). It is not, strictly speaking, the watershed, for the geological formation of the district is carsic, where water, flowing underground, does many funny things. The "Wilson" line, which had some things to recommend it (it followed the crest of the great spur which culminates in Monte Maggiore), entirely lost sight of hydrographic considerations. If it had been adopted, Trieste would have been deprived of its new main water and power supplies.

2. Italy renounces all claim to Dalmatia, except to the town of Zara, overwhelmingly Italian, and the Island of Lagosta, held by Italy for purely strategical reasons.

Zara is made a free port. The Convention of Santa Margherita lays down in the minutest detail its economic régime. No further question remains open with regard to Zara, except that its inhabitants complain bitterly that the local Yugoslav officials are not loyally carrying the Convention into effect. There is no doubt that obstacles are being put in the way of free intercourse between the hinterland and Zara, which is in direct contravention of the terms of the Convention. It is hoped, however, that as soon as the open sore of Fiume has been closed matters will mend; for the difficulties created are mainly due to exasperated sentiments, which will tend to calm down after the main dispute between the countries is settled. It should be noted that Italy was entitled to Dalmatia by treaty rights, and that Dalmatia, whose inhabitants are overwhelmingly Slav, but which most Italians fervently believe should nevertheless be attributed to Italy, partly for reasons of security, partly for cultural and historical reasons, partly for geographical and commercial reasons, was sacrificed for the sake of preserving the Italian character of Fiume, which was denied Italy by treaty in spite of the desire of the majority of its inhabitants to be included within Italy's natural land frontier.

The sacrifice was sentimental, and the fact should be given its due weight. The case for the annexation of Dalmatia by Italy has never been properly presented in this country. It was not a clear case, but it was a strong case; for Italy took her stand mainly on the geographical basis, which includes to a large extent her other reasons—Dalmatia, owing to its marked isolation from the rest of Yugoslavia on account of the great chain of the Dinaric Alps, across which there can never be any great commercial intercourse (no railway from the Continent to Spalato will ever become a really paying proposition), being united to Italy by the Adriatic rather than the reverse. But the controversy, whatever its merits, was closed by the Treaty of Rapallo. The Dalmatian question is no longer a matter of practical politics.

3. Fiume is created an independent State, within the boundaries of the ancient Corpus Separatum, granted to the town by Maria Teresa, and joined to Italy by a short coastal strip.

The frontier delimitation Commission, set up by the Treaty of Rapallo, found no difficulty in completing its labours until the point was reached where stands the bridge connecting Fiume with the neighbouring Yugoslav town of Susbak.

This point is only a few hundred yards from the mouth of the little river Recina, which formed the acknowledged boundary of the Corpus Separatum. Since Maria Teresa's time, however, a canal has been constructed on the Fiume side of the river between the bridge and the sea. A delta is thus formed, and based on this delta has been recently built the "Port of Barosh," a port supplementary to the main port of Fiume, admirably equipped with electric cranes and capable of dealing with the whole of any traffic between Croatia and the open sea (as distinct from traffic interesting still remoter hinterlands, such as Hungary).

Yugoslavia lays claim to the delta and to this port. According to the strict terms of the Treaty of Rapallo, her claims would be inadmissible. But Count Sforza, after the signature of the Treaty, addressed a letter to M. Trumbitch, which compromised the whole solution. The terms of this letter have remained secret. They were not even conveyed to the Italian Parliament, which ratified the Treaty. If they had been, the Treaty would probably not have been ratified. A treaty affecting the commercial relations of Italy and a foreign State is not binding by Italian law until ratified by Parliament. Italy, therefore, is perfectly within her rights should she wish to repudiate this letter. By it, apparently, Count Sforza promised the attribution of the delta and Port Barosh to Yugoslavia. On the other hand, the context, so to speak, of the letter presupposes the institution of a Consortium, to control the main port of Fiume and that of Barosh for the purpose of regulating the traffic and distributing it proportionately over the whole.

Now, Yugoslavia, in insisting on her claim to Port Barosh, has discountenanced the idea of a Consortium. Italy, on the other hand, has insisted on the institution of a Consortium, whatever might subsequently be decided about Port Barosh. The Treaty provided for arbitration in the event of a deadlock over the exact delimitation of the frontier. The question is complicated, however, as we see, by the question of the portual régime. In these circumstances arbitration has not been invoked by either side, and the most sensible steps for the two parties to take appear to be precisely those which, in fact, are being taken, namely, a deadlock having been reached among the members of the Commission, direct negotiations have been reopened between the two Governments.

A lying story has been repeated over and over again in the English Press that Italy desires Fiume in order to kill it for the sake of Trieste. Nothing is farther from the truth. Italy desires Fiume for its own sake and wishes Fiume to live. She is hopeful of being able by arrangement to distribute the traffic, in so far as they serve the same hinterland, equally between the two ports. This is borne out by the preferential tariff which has been granted to Fiume since General Giardini was appointed, pending the result of the present negotiations, Governor of Fiume. The Italian tax-payer has already paid dearly for keeping Fiume going during the past two years, with her main artery of traffic—that from the Yugoslav side—has remained completely closed. We now see the reason why Italy insisted on a Consortium. Fiume was built as the second port of a great empire, in the special interests of Hungary, and under the conditions of pre-War trade. With the break-up of Austria-Hungary, with the impoverishment of Central Europe, and with Venice for the first time taking her share of Central European traffic, the whole of the trade likely to pass through Fiume for many years to come could be dealt with in Port Barosh. In the absence of a Consortium, which would distribute the traffic, the main port of Fiume, with Barosh in the possession of Yugoslavia, would be starved. Moreover, if in after years the old volume of traffic tended to be restored, Port Barosh could without difficulty be amplified. In these circumstances, therefore, should Yugo-

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slavia desire it, the independent State of Fiume must fail. The Italian inhabitants would migrate slowly but surely in the face of continual unemployment, and Italy would eventually lose all interest in keeping Fiume, which might then be peacefully united by the self-determination of her remaining population of peasants and small shopkeepers to Yugoslavia.

There is one other point to be remembered. If no Fiume had existed when Yugoslavia came into being, it would have been many years (if ever) before it would have paid Yugoslavia to construct the railway across the great mountains behind Fiume and to develop the port. Her claim, therefore, is rather in the nature of one to a legacy by an illegitimate child. In other words, if the great Empire that has passed away had postponed the building of the railway, Yugoslavia would probably have acquiesced without much ado in the inclusion of Fiume within the natural frontier of Italy, which continues from Monte Nevoso along the main chain of the Alps until it approaches the sea south of Fiume hard by the channel of Veglia.

The present situation is accordingly as follows: There are two obvious alternative solutions:—

(1) An independent State of Fiume, with either the attribution of Port Barosh or the placing of Port Barosh (together with the delta, which is only occupied by sheds and railway sidings) under the nominal sovereignty of Yugoslavia and the creation of a Consortium, in which the representatives of Fiume would hold the majority, to control the traffic of both ports.

The drawbacks to this solution are: first, that it would not satisfy Yugoslavia, who very naturally wishes to make the most of her lucky legacy of the railway by controlling the terminus. No fair-minded person can withhold his sympathy from Yugoslavia in this. Secondly, the independent State of Fiume would remain in being, and experience shows that its lot is not likely to be a happy one. There would always be a strong party in favour of annexation to Italy, and, as this party could only be kept out of power by a combination between the autonomists, whose leaders are for the most part a lot of self-seeking professional politicians, and the Yugoslav element, the city would be doomed to an indefinite succession of unstable Governments, to a coalition united only on one point—to keep the annexationists out. Such a prospect is dismal.

(2) The attribution in full sovereignty of Port Barosh to Yugoslavia, and the annexation of the rest of Fiume by Italy. This solution would give Yugoslavia what she chiefly desires, and would preserve the Italian character of Fiume. At the same time Fiume, united to Italy, could gradually be transformed under the fostering care of the motherland into something other than merely a port. It is not an ideal solution, but it would be less unsatisfactory than the other. It is the one which Signor Mussolini is credited with favouring. Its chief drawback is that it leaves the last section of the Italo-Yugoslav frontier altogether unnatural. Castua would remain a wedge of Yugoslav territory within the natural walls of Italy—an anomaly which was scarcely apparent as long as Fiume remained an independent State. This drawback would be overcome if Yugoslavia conceded to Italy Castua and the line of the river Recina from Monte Nevoso to the Sushak bridge; but this would be asking much of her in the circumstances, and it is doubtful whether Italy will even make the request. After all, there are many frontier anomalies left in the world which do not disturb the peace of nations. Let us hope that this may prove, if this be the solution reached, but another case in point.

NEAR EAST BOOKSHELF.

THE DARDANELLES JUSTIFICATION.

"THE WORLD CRISIS, 1915." By the Rt. Hon. Winston S. Churchill, C.H. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 30s. net.)

Even more than the first volume of "The World Crisis," this second volume of Mr. Winston Churchill's apologia bears the mark of genius, the hint, even, of greatness. It is at once the product of a first-class intellect and the history of the workings of a first-class imagination. That it is the record of failure, the failure of a scheme in the War dearest above all things to the author's heart, in many ways emphasises, as lack of success so often does emphasise, the nature of his genius.

On broad counts the instigator (although he was not the inspirer) of the Dardanelles campaign justifies his actions in 1915. It may have been an impatient view that saw in the West that year an impossible deadlock, and that exaggerated the possibility of Russia's crumbling, but it was undoubtedly worth the risk to make a flank movement, either in the Baltic or in the Dardanelles, of some sort. Inaction on the part of the Royal Navy at such a time and to such a man as the First Lord was maddening, and, indeed, not to be endured, and, first on its own account and afterwards to help the Army, he struggled for the Navy to assert itself. It was, in fact, inevitable that this Capablanca of our modern politics should seek out some new combination, to some extent abandoning orthodox rules. A layman, more especially one who like the reviewer, saw the dissolution of the German armies in 1918, and the consequent upsetting of the idea that the Western was not the decisive front, cannot pronounce on the policy of the naval authorities who in 1915 regarded the rôle of the Navy as one of passive subservience to the needs of the Army; but as far as one can judge the verdict of history is likely to justify the conceptions both of the naval and of the military expeditions to the Dardanelles. That they were mishandled was due to many causes—the natural shock of Admiral de Robeck at his first losses, the delay by Lord Kitchener in sending out the 29th Division, the narrow if intense vision of the generals on the Western Front, and so on—but none of them can fairly be ascribed to Mr. Churchill. Yet it is only just to say that those who opposed his scheme had excellent and immediate reasons for doing so; to jibe at a "Westerner" on dirty duty at the Western Front in no way strengthens the case of the "Easterner."

How near the British were to success at the Dardanelles is becoming clearer every day. The issue—and what its results might have been is inconceivable: Russia might now have been mistress of the Balkans and Turkey almost the smallest power in Islam—hung by a thread; another reinforcing handful of men, another consolidating gun or so, and half a dozen of the War's greater tragedies would have been avoided.

But speculations on the event may be left to the Gibbons of the future. To our generation, and especially to Mr. Churchill, it must always seem that fate stood in the way of success. If it was not personal opposition, it was political; if it was not our own generals in the West, it was the

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French; if it was not Serbia's recusancy in easing up the severity of her methods in Macedonia, it was the Tsar of Russia's embargo on Greek co-operation in the advance to Constantinople. From the inhuman point of view it may perhaps be said that our First Lord in 1915 should have foreseen these things, or some of these things; but we are here dealing with a human document, and we do not count it a mistake in War, when the prize was so great, to underrate the known obstacles and to ignore the unknown. In the space of a few months, and largely owing to such unforeseen circumstances as those mentioned, the nature of the Dardanelles expedition considerably changed, but so convinced was Mr. Churchill of its possibilities that he clung loyally and constantly to it to the melancholy end. It can even be found in one's emotional heart to forgive him his biting and bitter words on General Stopford's strange conduct at Suvla and on the celerity of General Monro's decision for evacuation. But whether he was right in clinging to the plan after its execution had changed so completely from his original conception is doubtful.

The style of this second volume is personal and telling to an admirable degree. Quite frankly it is written in self-justification; but other unsuccessful people in the War—and many more blameless than Mr. Churchill—have lacked the tremendous sense of words and of perspective here shown, and so are condemned to obscurity.

There are pictures in this book which are unforgettably superior to any other word-pictures of the War. Naturally the long record of the Dardanelles is the main canvas; but equally fine or vivid is the story of the Dogger Bank Battle, the history of the First Lord's encouragement of the "Tank" idea, or the sketch of "the ruin of the Balkans." His words, indeed, hang like Véry lights on the darkened tanglements of 1915; the book is a most brilliant piece of retrospective illumination. But it must never be forgotten that, although he himself sheds so much white light, in himself could be discerned by others the red light; and although we consider that in the exposition of the Dardanelles he has made good his case, we can feel all through the spreading, flooding danger he might be in crises less momentous and in causes less high.

ITALY AND THE BALKANS.

By the courtesy of Lady Grogan a general meeting of the Near and Middle East Association was held on November 16 at 31, Wilton Place, S.W.1. Two addresses were given, the first by Dr. Pellizzi on Italy and the Balkans, and the second by Mrs. Frederick Hasluck, on her experiences during the last two years in the Balkans.

Dr. Pellizzi's point of view was, he claimed, that of the ordinary Fascist. He defended the Alps watershed as the natural frontier of Italy, and on her north-eastern side wished to include Fiume as the frontier town, with Sushak as Yugoslavia's frontier village. Having pointed out that the Croats were during the War very good enemies to the Italians, and the subsequent enforced impossibility of treating them as a conquered nation, he went on to say that the question of Fiume was not a large one, and could at this moment be settled between MM. Pashitch and Ninchitch and Signor Mussolini were it not for irreconcilable elements in the Pashitch Government. There was really no reason why good economic relations should not be established between Yugoslavia and Italy, and indeed a beginning had been made by Italians in this direction. The incident of Corfu was defended at some length; it taught not only Greece, but all the other Balkan nations that Italy was a Great Power. Between Italy and Greece there was no conceivable rivalry; provided Greece confined her attentions to the Balkans and to the development of her trade peace was bound to be kept. (Italy indeed, had never been to war with Greece.) Towards Roumania, which in some ways might be counted a Latin nation, and was certainly bound by close ties to Italy, the feeling was one of mistrust. That feeling, the lecturer explained, the feeling of Roumania's unreliability, might quite well be wrong; but he was giving the ordinary Italian's point of view. Towards Bulgaria, on the other hand, Italy's feeling was one of admiration. She felt that Bulgaria was a sentinel in the East against Bolshevism, and Bolshevism she always regarded as a possible basis of pan-Slavism. For similar and other reasons she admired Hungary. The main content, however, of Dr. Pellizzi's remarks was that Italy did not fear the Balkans for themselves, for of themselves, he thought, they would harm no one, but she feared them on account of the use of which other Powers eternally made of them. For other Powers playing with the Balkans might be an amusing game, but for Italy it was a matter of life and death.

Mrs. Hasluck, who for the last two years has been conducting anthropological research in the Balkans, began her remarks with a tribute to Italy. In Macedonia the prestige of Italy was high; in Albania, of course, it was very high. Of Serbian rule in Macedonia she had little good to speak; even for Balkan manners the Serbs and those whom they had introduced into these parts were a little too much. Of Greece, on the other hand, until the refugees from Asia Minor arrived to be billeted on the Moslems in Macedonia, she was able to speak highly; and even of the present administration, especially of the governor of Western Macedonia, she could approve. She mentioned, incidentally, that whereas Monastir and Salonika were declining, Uskub was awakening—so much so that the Jews were moving thither. Commenting on the Bulgarians of Macedonia, she did not think they had many grievances; their own schools were forbidden them, of course, they could not worship in church in their own language, and so on; but were not schools always hives of propaganda, and was the penalty of worshipping in a foreign tongue any worse than worshipping in Old Slavonic? Their lot was certainly hard, but—this was the Balkans. Dalmatia, the speaker said, was stiff with gendarmes: you could not get out of the sound of the drum or the clank of an officer's sword. To Montenegro she was unable to go, because of the revolution now in progress there. Wherever she encountered Serbian rule, she was met with suspicion; but her main impression was that Serbia would at all costs go her own way. Whereas everything that Greece, for instance, did was done with one eye cocked on Europe, Serbia did not care a fig for European opinion. She would like to see Serbia's frontiers clipped on every side, and, too, she would like to see Albania's frontiers extended. On the question of Albania's frontiers there were very real grievances involved.

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NOTES AND NEWS.

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Government and Anglo-Persian.

Beyond confirming the reported existence of negotiations for the disposal of the British Government's interest in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's answer in the House of Commons to a question on the subject threw very little further light on the matter. It is to be noted that no decision has yet been arrived at, and political developments have no doubt ended negotiations for the time being, though from the tenor of the Chancellor's reply it would be going too far to assume that they will not be continued if the present Administration is returned to power.

Italy and Greece.

One result of the recent Greco-Italian incident has been that Italy's trade with Greece has been seriously affected. It was perhaps not an unexpected development, but it is one which is likely to be very unwelcome to Italy, who stands to lose in this way quite enough to make stalwart asserters of Italy's rights wonder whether the game was worth the candle. While Greece is thus turning her back on one of the Western countries, it would appear from a report in a contemporary, which is quoted on another page, that there is a movement in Greece to open up relations with Soviet Russia. This development would not be surprising, for the Greek mercantile marine has always played a considerable part in all commercial movements in the Mediterranean, and now that there really seems to be a prospect of the resumption of the Black Sea grain trade on a substantial scale, it is only natural that Greece should aspire to a share of it.

Serious Cotton Outlook.

Considerable anxiety is very naturally being felt in Lancashire as a result of the latest American Bureau report on the cotton crop, according to which it is estimated at 10,248,000 bales or 767,000 bales below the September estimate. Of course, the present forecast may be no more correct than the previous one, but even if some allowance be made on that account there is no getting away from the fact that the American crop will be short for the third year in succession. On the present estimate the situation is serious in the extreme, as the available supply of American cotton including linters would be no more than 13,471,000 bales, while the world's consumption in 1922-23 was 12,710,000 bales, so that if these figures hold good the carry-over next August will be no more than about 700,000 bales, as against a surplus of 2,573,000 bales. What that means to Lancashire is obvious. Put plainly the position is that at a time of extreme depression the output of American cotton is not adequate to meet current consumption. Provided there are no unexpected developments it is inevitable that prices will continue to rise, and there must be no small danger that Lancashire will be unable to obtain all the cotton she requires to satisfy her requirements. What would happen if events should combine to bring about something approaching a real revival of trade I leave to the imagination of my readers to picture.

Need for Empire Supplies.

I have frequently drawn attention to the danger of a shortage of cotton and have stressed the imperative need for concentration on the development of cotton growing in the Empire. We are not yet faced with a shortage, but we are near enough to it now for the danger to be clearly perceptible to all, and it is a matter for extreme congratulation that so much has been done within the Empire in recent years to remedy the position, particularly in the Sudan, where the work of the Sudan Plantations Syndicate will result in a few years' time in a very substantial contribution to Lancashire's needs. There may, and quite probably there will, be a very real shortage of cotton before the great developments in the Sudan come to fruition. Nothing that can now be done can affect that materially, but I trust that the possibilities latent in the present position will lead to greatly increased efforts to promote cotton growing in the Empire. It is good to know that the Government is fully alive to the needs of the situation, and it is evident from what Mr. Baldwin has said that he will spare no effort to bring about that result.

Great Britain and Europe.

The importance of the European markets to this country, and the consequences of the prolongation of the present position, are the subject of interesting comment in an article in the monthly review of the Midland Bank on "World Trade and the Standard of Living in Europe." It is pointed out that in the event of European restoration being retarded, or further ground being lost, the probable result will be "to arrest, if not actually to reverse, the progress towards a higher standard in this country." The productive capacity of this country, it is emphasised, has specialised on the supply of high-grade products, "and a decline in the standard of living in Europe must inevitably be accom-

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panied by a shrinkage in the demand for semi-luxury products due to the substitution of low- for high-grade commodities. This proposition may be made clear by a simple illustration. If a tailor decides to cut down his working hours by one-half, and, therefore, his productivity by, say, one-third, he may find it necessary, in view of his diminished income, to substitute beer for wine as his customary beverage. Such precisely is the position of Europe towards high-grade British industry. It is true that, in the hypothetical case, while the market for wine is contracted, that for beer is expanded, and that the proper thing for the unfortunate wine producers is to turn to the production of beer. But the readjustment is certain to be painful, and may, owing to the special skill acquired through long generations of wine-making and the peculiar qualities of the local resources for that purpose, be difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish. Such would appear to be the position of some of the leading industries in this country, failing a recovery in Europe or the opening up of new markets."

The Prospect.

The conclusion is drawn by the writer that unless the influences conducing to the lowering of the standard of life in Europe are counteracted there must inevitably be a wider diversity in the output of British industries. Such a process is bound to be difficult and painful, and "the prospect of radical changes of this character, amounting in some cases almost to upheavals, only serves to emphasise again the fundamental necessity for arresting the decline in Europe and restoring her old productivity. But over and above measures of a recuperative character much might be done in the way of developing new markets for our products and new resources for the supply of this fresh demand. Empire development, and the settlement of the areas still practically devoid of inhabitants, can be of great service, but only if the resultant decrease in our adult population is accompanied by a corresponding withdrawal of dependents. In addition the demand for higher grade products, which is a part of the rising standard of life in Eastern countries may furnish new markets for the output of our industries. At the same time, to meet these demands more economically than is possible under present industrial conditions in this country, the development of cheaper methods of production and marketing is another side of the question which cannot be ignored if the facts of the situation are to be courageously faced. New sources of power, more efficient machinery, less wasteful utilisation of human energy, and the perfection of the technique of marketing are only some of the general directions in which much might be achieved as the result of well-concerted efforts of research and enterprise. Lastly, and perhaps more fundamental than any of the foregoing, is the necessity of utilising every opportunity to arrest the decline in the standard of living in Europe and if possible to restore it to a level more closely approximating that attained in pre-war years."

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The commercial situation finds only a minor reflection in the report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31, which shows a decline of about £26,000 in the net profits as compared with the results of the previous twelve months. The net profits amounted to £93,691, as against £119,699, and the carry forward was £52,733, making the total £146,424, out of which £7,334 is placed to the staff provident fund, but there is no allocation to premises account, which last year received £22,000. It is proposed to maintain the dividend at 15 per cent. free of tax, and to carry forward £49,090.

COMMENTATOR.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

The report of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank for the year ended August 31, 1923, states that the gross profit, after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and taxation, was £417,698, and deducting the expenses, amounting to £324,006, there remains a net profit of £93,691. Including £52,733 brought in, there is available £146,424. The directors propose contributing to staff provident fund £7,334, paying a dividend of 10s. per share, free of tax, on December 1, making 15 per cent. for the year, leaving to be carried forward £49,090. The meeting will be held at 37, King William Street, E.C., on November 27, at 3 p.m.

NEW COMPANIES.

Egyptian Industries.

Egyptian Produce and Industries, Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £2,000 in £1 shares. The objects are: To adopt an agreement with H. S. King and to carry on in the U.K., its Colonies, Dominions, and Dependencies, Egypt, Palestine, and elsewhere the business of manufacturers, wholesale and retail traders, agents, carriers, railway, shipping, and forwarding agents, etc. The first directors are: H. B. Greville, J. F. G. Hopkins, and H. S. King. The registered office is Bath House, 57-60, Holborn Viaduct, E.C.

British Colonial Cotton Corporation.

The British Colonial Cotton Corporation, Ltd., has been registered as a public company with a nominal capital of £1,000 in 3,600 ordinary shares of 5s. and 200 deferred shares of 10s. The objects are: To plant and produce cotton and other plants indigenous to British Dominions beyond the seas, and to prepare for market, deal in or warehouse, whether on account of the company or others, cotton, cotton-seed, oil, hemp, and other fibres, etc. The registered office is at Finsbury Court, Finsbury Pavement, E.C.2.

Indo-Burma Oilfields (1920).—The production for September was 4,238.5 barrels, being 2,780.9 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,457.6 barrels from Padaukpin field.

Egyptian Markets.—Coupon serial No. 38 on share warrants to bearer will be payable on and after November 22 at the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, London, Cairo, and Alexandria.

The India General Navigation and Railway Company announces an interim dividend of 2 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 2½ per cent. on the preference shares, both free of tax, payable December 7.

The progress reports of Phœnix Oil and Transport and allied companies for October show that the total crude oil production for the month was 7,946 tons, and the throughput of the refineries 8,677 tons.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

THE MOTOR SHOW.—III.

As is always the case at the Motor Show, one stand in particular came in for special attention, that, it is almost superfluous to add, being that of Messrs. Rolls-Royce, Ltd., who have long held a unique position in the motoring world. So famous have their products become, indeed, that it is almost invariably the case that one of the first questions put by the visitors to Olympia concerns the whereabouts of the Rolls-Royce stand. The reasons for their reputation are obvious. A Rolls-Royce represents the acme of perfection, and the purchaser of one knows that he has a car which will meet any requirement, while affording an exceptional degree of comfort. The firm has consistently followed the policy of nothing but the best, and is always looking for some new development which will make the Rolls-Royce engine even more perfect than it is—as a matter of fact, each succeeding Show sees various innovations, not necessarily introduced for the event, for it has always been the practice of the firm to incorporate improvements at the time.

This year's models consist of three cars, a 40-50 h.p. limousine, a 40-50 h.p. landaulette, and a 40-50 h.p. open tourer. The chassis details of these cars—which are the same except that the tourer has a wheelbase of 12 ft.—may be briefly enumerated. The engine is 114 bore by 121 stroke, there are side by side valves and battery ignition, while internal expanding brakes of the double-acting type are fitted to the rear wheels. The wheelbase is 12 ft. 6½ in., while the track is 4 ft. 8 in., and the cars are fitted with a Lucas dynamo lighting set and a Rolls-Royce electric engine starter. New features about the models are that battery ignition is now provided with automatic advance by a governor, the provision of thermostatic water temperature control, while the induction pipe has fitted to it a small carburetter to enable easy starting.

As usual, the carriage work leaves nothing to be desired. Of the examples shown, the limousine by Messrs. Hooper and Co., Ltd., built to seat six persons, including the driver, was painted in claret and black and was a most admirable production. The landaulette, by Messrs. Barker and Co., Ltd., also a six-seater, painted black with a fine white line, had a superb appearance, while the tourer, by Messrs. Windovers, Ltd., seating four persons, including the driver, painted in yellow and black and upholstered in brown leather, looked an extremely smart car. In all the cars it was impossible not to be impressed by the graceful lines and general appearance, and it is no exaggeration to say that this year's exhibits have fully maintained Messrs. Rolls-Royce's great reputation.

The exhibits of Messrs. D. Napier and Son, Ltd., were as striking and distinctive as those of Messrs. Rolls Royce, and fitly typified the attainments of British motor engineering. This firm were showing a 40-50 h.p. enclosed limousine, a 40-50 h.p. landaulette, and a 40-50 h.p. tourer. I have referred on previous occasions to the fine Napier engine of 40-50 h.p., 6 cylinders, with bore and stroke of 102 by 127, giving a Treasury-rating of 38.4 h.p., and there is, therefore, no need to go over the features again in detail. This year Messrs. Napier introduced a new long chassis with a 12 ft. wheelbase, in which a number of interesting modifications have been made. For one thing the brake drums are larger and now hold eight shoes. Then the air-pump fuel feed system has been modified, while to allow free passage for the hot air, louvres have been cut in the underscreen, and small ventilating doors are provided on each side of the bonnet.

The coach work of each of the three cars was by Messrs. the Cunard Motor and Carriage Co., Ltd., and fully upheld the high standard that one has come to expect from that firm. The design in every case was admirable, and the cars made a very attractive display. Specially noteworthy was the landaulette, with a detachable canopy, seating six persons, and painted olive green and black, and upholstered in the interior with green hair line cloth, the front seat being in leather to match the paintwork. The limousine, also a six seater, was painted in royal blue and black, with the interior upholstered in blue hair line cloth, the front seat being in crocodile-grained leather, while the tourer, providing similar seating accommodation, was painted in silver grey throughout and upholstered in antique leather to match, both being very fine cars. There is no question that the stand of Messrs. Napier and that of Messrs. Rolls-Royce provided two of the outstanding features of the Show.

Messrs. the Clyno Engineering Co., Ltd., had an interesting stand, showing their 11 h.p. two-seater, four-seater tourer, de luxe two-seater, and de luxe four-seater tourer. The chassis details may be briefly set forth. The engine is 66 bore by 100 stroke, the Treasury rating being 10.8 h.p. Features are side by side valves, thermo-syphon water circulation, and plunger pump circulation. The car has magneto ignition, three forward speeds, and internal expanding brakes on the rear wheels. The two-seaters are well-built, attractive-looking cars, with ample room for two persons. The ordinary model has a large locker for luggage, while the de luxe model has a sunk double dickey seat. The four-seater has a single door, and folding adjustable front seats, while the de luxe model has doors for both front and rear compartments.

Before concluding my review of the stands I must say a few words with regard to Messrs. the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., who, of course, had on view the many varieties of their famous tyres. It was not necessary, however, to visit the stand

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to see the tyres. They were literally everywhere, and the Show as a whole was a wonderful tribute to the extent to which the motoring industry depends on Fort Dunlop for its tyres.

On the whole this year's Motor Show must be adjudged a very distinct success. The general economic situation seemed to provide fairly substantial grounds for apprehension with regard to the Show, but the event proved this view to be wrong. There were the usual crowds, and, what is vastly more important, a very considerable volume of business is reported to have been done, another sign of the slight revival of trade, of which there have been not a few indications of late.

Commercial Motor Exhibition.

Scarcely has the Motor Show concluded than we have the Commercial Motor Exhibition upon us. It opens on the day these notes appear, and I shall hope to deal with it fully in succeeding issues of The Near East. In a sense it is a specialised exhibition compared to the Motor Show. Everyone except the new poor can reasonably aspire to the ownership of a motor-car, but the commercial vehicle is of the trade apart, which would seem to presuppose an attendance in which buyers predominate. I understand that the coming exhibition will be in many respects a great advance on the last one organised by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in 1921. There have been so many developments in the design of commercial vehicles, and the exhibition will be a revelation of the great advance in mechanical transport. The exhibits will include, for instance, six-wheeled machines capable of carrying loads of twelve tons, and yet so built and so connected that they can successfully negotiate the worst roads, and range from these monsters to the lightest of vans suitable for the small trader or the commercial traveller. A feature of special interest will be the variety of uses and of sources of power. At the Motor Show it was inevitable that the chassis would be a petrol-engine one, and that, with few exceptions, its transmission would incorporate a clutch and a more or less orthodox change-speed gear. But the commercial vehicle may be a steam wagon or a petrol lorry, and in the latter event it may have an ordinary clutch and gearbox, or it may have an ingenious electrical transmission, giving an infinite number of gears and eliminating entirely the need for a clutch. It may, again, be electric, drawing its current from a set of batteries carried beneath its chassis, these batteries being charged daily, perhaps twice daily, off the local electricity company's supply. Each of these types of vehicle has its own proper sphere of work, and they do not overlap to any great extent, thus rendering of great importance the differentiation between the different duties. I shall have a good deal to say on this question later on. Of course, it goes without saying that the possibilities of the export trade in our commercial vehicles are immense, and if they have not hitherto been realised it is simply because the markets have not been catered for in the right way. The Near East region as a whole has come under something of a cloud as a result of events since the end of the war and of the adverse exchanges. Yet that region offers great prospects for commercial vehicle manufacturers, and it is high time that they realised that the exchanges affect only a part of the Near East, and that even where this obstacle exists trade can be done. The establishment of the Nairn transport service is a sign of the times, and it may be taken for granted that that service will not long remain unique. The Middle East as a whole, it must be remembered, is but scantily provided with railway communication, and the development of transport, if it is to come in the near future, must be by motor. There is no reason why British firms should not supply at least a large proportion of the machines that will ultimately be required.

A Vehicle for Desert Transport.

An interesting glimpse of the pioneer work that is being done in opening up services in the Middle East was given by Major Salkield in his recent lecture before the Institute of Transport (which was reported in last week's issue of The Near East) describing a journey from Duzdap to Meshed undertaken in order to ascertain the prospects of opening up trade by motor transport. In the course of the lecture Major Salkield discussed the suitable vehicle for the particular work, and it may not be out of place if I summarise his conclusions. In his view it would be impossible to use anything heavier than a one-ton lorry fitted with pneumatic tyres, while the wheels should be of steel, not only for strength, but because wood could not resist the dry heat of the region. Ignition ought to be by magneto, and the type of gear was immaterial, provided the lorry could take a gradient of one in eight; a 20 h.p. engine ought to be able to cope with the steep gradients and be equal to the high tractive effort required on sand. He emphasised the necessity for simplicity of construction in view of the absence of repair shops, and further pointed out that, owing to the intense heat and with water only obtainable at long distances, it was essential to have large radiators, as well as pumps and fans. He thought that this problem might be solved by air-cooled engines. In the winter at high altitudes, with the temperature sometimes ten degrees below zero, anything that would facilitate starting should be provided, and, in his opinion, for this reason compression taps should be provided on the cylinders to enable petrol to be poured in.

The Four-Wheel Drive Lorry.

The Egyptian Government have given several orders to the Four-Wheel Drive Lorry Co., Ltd., of Slough, for lorries fitted with giant pneumatic tyres, and they have now given the firm a further order for two vehicles for the Fire Department fitted with Dennis turbine pumps and hose bodies.

The Lloyd Barrage.

Much has already appeared on almost every aspect of the Lloyd Barrage, but it may be of interest to my readers if I quote a few facts from the *Times of India Illustrated Weekly*, which give a very clear idea in brief of this gigantic undertaking:—The barrage will command an area of 8,000,000 acres in Sind. The land actually irrigated

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by the canals will be 6,000,000 acres, or 500,000 acres more than the total area of cultivation in the whole of Egypt. The barrage, the largest in the world, will cost over 3½ millions sterling, or a million pounds more than the Assuan Dam. It will carry two mighty bridges across the Indus, each of them nearly a mile long, or more than five times as long as London Bridge. The dam will be pierced by sixty-six openings, each of 60 ft. span, between which huge steel gates will operate. There will be seven large canals, three of them wider than the Suez Canal. The Rohri Canal, the biggest, will be over 205 miles long, with 2,300 miles of branches and distributaries. The Central Rice Canal will have a discharge equal to that of the Thames. The excavation work to be done on the canals is equivalent to four Suez Canals or 100 Great Pyramids. The irrigated lands will produce an annual crop of two million tons of grain and cotton. The complete scheme of barrage and canals is estimated to cost over 12 millions pounds sterling.

CATTLE DISEASE IN IRAK.

The following particulars are given in the Veterinary Bulletin of Irak for August:—

Nineteen cases of glanders were detected and destroyed in the Liwas of Basrah, Hilla and Baquba. The majority of the cases occurred among the Arabana ponies in Basrah City and Ashar. Every step has been taken by the veterinary and municipal authorities to stamp out the disease.

Black quarter exists in the Mahrut area, Baquba Liwa. 370 incontact cattle were vaccinated, and no deaths occurred subsequently.

Outbreaks of rinderpest or cattle plague occurred in the Liwas of Mosul, Kirkuk, Amara, Hilla, and Nasiriya. 125 head of cattle died from this plague, and 1,452 animals were inoculated with anti-rinderpest serum in the affected areas.

Thirty-four cases of parasitic mange amongst horses were discovered in Mosul, Nasiriya, Baquba, and Kirkuk.

HAIFA-BAGHDAD MOTOR ROUTE.

The Shah of Persia a Passenger.

Our Beyrout correspondent telegraphs:—

The mail convoy of the Nairn Trans-Desert motor service arriving in Damascus on November 10, brought over from Baghdad the Shah of Persia, with his suite. The convoy had an excellent run.

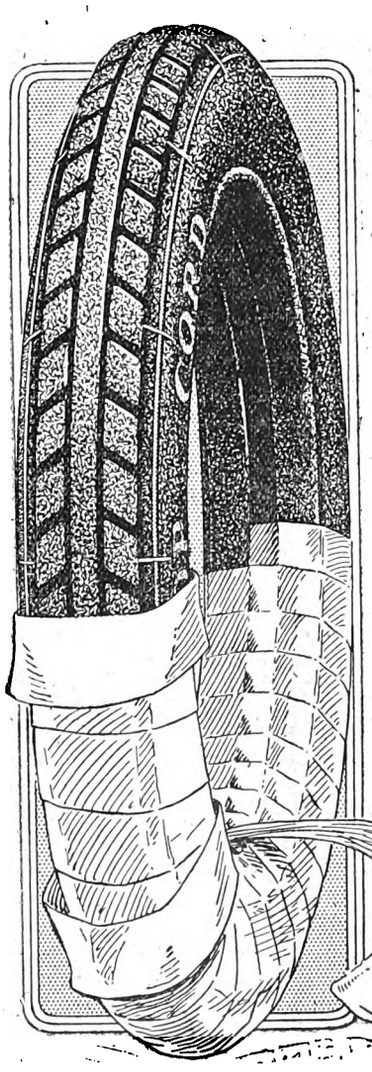
Another telegram states that His Majesty was escorted from Baghdad by British armoured cars as far as the Syrian frontier, where the convoy was met by French cars and an aeroplane.

The Bank of British West Africa announces an interim dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, less tax, payable December 1.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜ 97$\frac{5}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	265-275
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	375-395
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.80-24.82
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{32}$-1.5¼
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.40-94.60
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	845-860
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	75-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{32}$-1.5¼
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	705-805
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.31¾
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	80.40-80.50
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148¾
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	99¾-100
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	500-540
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	300-320,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	8,500,000*

* Nominal.



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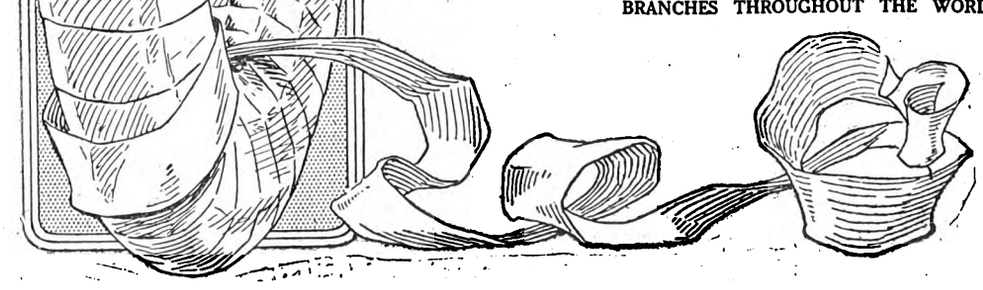

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Basrah, October 20.

The latest offers from London for dates have been at rather good prices for the exporters. Large transactions in cereals have taken place here at favourable prices for the holders.

Jaffa, October 27.

Shipments of oranges to the United Kingdom via Port Said have commenced. The freight on a case of oranges has now been fixed at 1s. 9d., i.e., 6d. less than last year.

Hamadan, October 13.

There is a small improvement in the import market. The carpet export market remains dull, and prices have fallen by approximately 12 per cent. Wheat is selling at 140 krans per khalvar of 400 kilos, and barley at 90.100 krans per khalvar.

Nablus, October 20.

An improvement in the price of sesame has allowed our merchants to sell some lots with profit. Some important sales in "Naboulsi" soap have taken place this week in Egypt, where present prices, without being very profitable to our clients, have been firmer, with a tendency to rise.

Nablus, October 27.

Prices for "Naboulsi" soap have been firmer this week in Egypt, where sales amounting to about £E1,500 have been effected at the price of Pt.275-285 per cantar. Very little business has been transacted in grain.

SILKWORM CULTIVATION IN YUGOSLAVIA.

The Yugoslav authorities are paying considerable attention to the rearing of silkworms, and the Ministry of Agriculture has organised courses of instruction throughout the country, besides replacing large quantities of the mulberry trees which were destroyed or perished in various ways during the war (says the *Central European Observer*). Last year (1922) the following amounts of cocoons were produced in the various provinces: Old Servia, 6,316 kg.; Croatia, 51,761 kg.; Vojvodina, 292,208 kg.; Macedonia, 227,300 kg. In Bosnia, Herzegovina, Dalmatia, and Montenegro the rearing of the silkworm has not got beyond the initial stages. The Belgrade trade journal, *Privredni Pregled*, sees a great obstacle to the development of silkworm cultivation as an industry in the fact that there is a very serious divergence in the prices paid for the cocoons. In Macedonia they are sold in the open market at 117 dinars per kg., whereas, for example, in the Vojvodina the State buys under a monopoly privilege and pays the breeder no more than 35 dinars. The *Pregled* advocates the fixing of prices in accord with the breeders.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Output. — Week ended November 16: Gemsah, 13 tons; Hurghada, 3,028 tons.

The yield of the Bulgarian harvest is estimated at 1,055,000 t. of wheat, 267,400 t. of barley, 145,900 t. of oats, and 555,900 t. of maize.

The Bulgarian tobacco crop is estimated at 40 mill. kg. as against 20 mill. in 1922 and 15.5 mill. in 1921.

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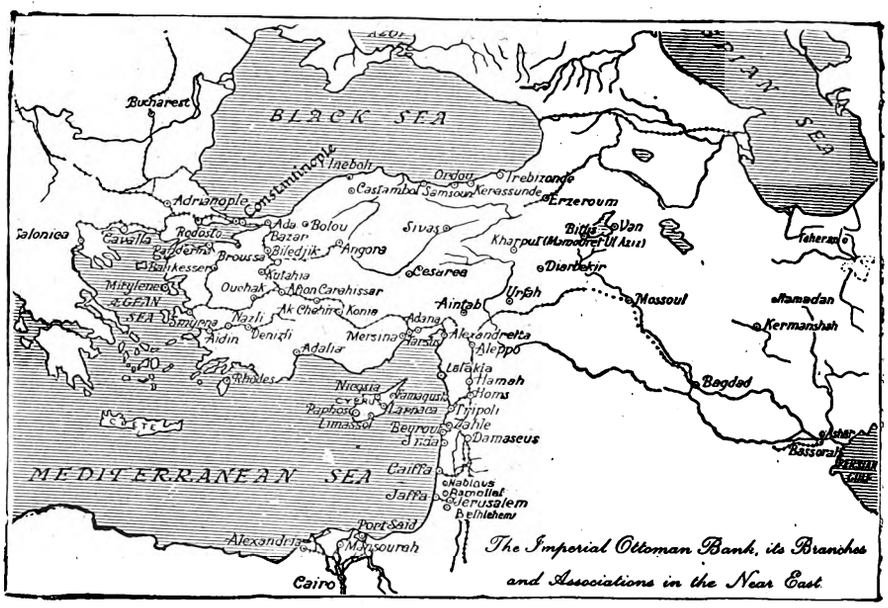
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



CONSTANTINOPLE.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Fluctuations in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 9, state:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very active indeed, and has fluctuated widely. The Bureau report on the American crop published on 2nd inst., with a condition figure of 47.8 and a forecast of the total production at ten and a quarter million bales, has had a most startling effect on the markets. Since its publication the New York market has daily risen to higher levels, and our market has followed suit. The Bureau figures have also made the trade most anxious about this season's supplies, and the result has been a sharp revival of the demand, a good share of it being diverted to Egyptian owing to the reasonable level of our prices as compared to the American crop on account of the difference in exchange. Large orders have come from everywhere, and they have covered all qualities of Sakel. and Ashmouni. Ashmouni has again been the stronger market, and the difference of December with January Sakel. at to-day's close is $1.95 against $2.42 a week ago. We consider this difference very small, and certainly not in proportion to the intrinsic value of these two varieties. Speculation has been very active during the week, but the open positions are small owing to the reserved attitude of the operators who have been badly hit during the last few months. The Government has withdrawn from the market for the time being. Although perhaps the rise has been too rapid and a reaction may occur, we think that the strength of the statistical position and the meagre stocks held by spinners are bound to influence prices as the season advances and as consumption absorbs the available supplies. The week's arrivals amounted to 330,786 krs., against exports 191,781; the stock stands at 1,841,686 krs.

Spot.—We have experienced a good demand from abroad, and have had a week of active markets at Minet-el-Bassal. Sales amount to about 37,100 B/s, of which we estimate 22,000 B/s Sakel., 14,500 B/s Uppers, 300 B/s Brown and Pilion, and 300 B/s White. The interior movement continues on a large scale, and we have had heavy arrivals. Exports keep up with a good offtake in the spot market. In spite of the rapid rise in prices, holders are not ready sellers.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but the feature of the week's markets has been the large and eager demand for anything from F.G.F. downwards. Everything in these styles which has been offered has been eagerly taken up, and it looks as if certain export firms had been caught short and forced to cover considerable sales for near shipment at any price. Quotations of spot against contracts are generally appreciably dearer than last week, with the exception of Good, which is without much change but is also inclined to harden. Prices paid, however, have apparently varied according to the urgency of the buyers' needs, especially in grades below Good Fair.

Uppers.—All grades have changed hands, and the demand for the medium and lower grades still continues. Prices of spot against contracts are generally a little dearer than last week, and sellers are rather difficult to deal with.

Brown and Pilion.—A fair business has been done mainly in the medium and good grades at about last week's rates.

White.—A good demand has appeared mainly in medium and good grades, but business has been restricted by small supplies. Except for Good, which is steady without change, spot prices are rather dearer than last week.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Demand Variable.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 14:—

Egyptian Spot.—The possibility of a reaction after the recent substantial rise (to which we referred last week) has materialised in fact, although, after a week of alternately strong and weak markets the decline registered is a comparatively small one. Various factors have tended towards this result, the chief amongst them being the crisis which has arisen on the Continent and the announcement of a coming general election in this country. It is a tribute to the strength of the cotton situation as a whole that, as we write, prices for future delivery are less than ¼d. down from last week, while spot prices actually show an advance ranging from 5 to 45 points.

The demand here has varied somewhat, but, on the whole, has continued on broad lines, and the fact that the estimated sales show an increase on last week of nearly 2,000 bales is in itself an indication of what the trade think regarding the situation. A year ago the advent of a general election caused a collapse in the Egyptian section of the trade, but since those days the position of Egyptian spinners has become very much stronger, and they are to-day in a better position to withstand any dislocation of commerce which might occur as the unfortunate adjunct to a general election.

The inquiry has run on the customary lines. Sakellaridis 75 to 125 on January contracts still bulks prominently on the board each day, and some lines of what appear to be very reasonable cotton have been on offer at about "100 on." The easier markets induced on several occasions a slight break in the basis for strictly good fair cotton, and this was speedily taken advantage of by spinners. Some increase in business in the better qualities has been noticeable. Uppers have held their own very well, and "good" cotton changed hands to-day at 20¾d. spot terms. Many holders, however, have exaggerated ideas of the value of this cotton. White cotton is still inquired for by the few, but actual business, if any, has been difficult to trace. The demand for low cotton has fallen off still further, and the stock in Liverpool appears to have shrunk to a very small figure. An improved business has taken place in Sudan cotton, up to about 22d. per lb. A fair c.i.f. business has been reported.

In the near future we look for fluctuations, but we cannot on the face of things anticipate any very substantial decline from to-day's level. Spinners who are still short of cotton would do well, in our opinion, to take such opportunities as may be offered, during the unsettled period to be looked for prior to the elections, to cover part of their requirements. Estimated sales, 4,600 bales Egyptian and 500 bales Sudan. Quotations of Brown and Upper are advanced 30 points, those of Sakellaridis are 25 points higher for fair, good fair, and fully good fair; 5 points higher for good and fine, and 40 higher for extra fine. F.G.F. to-day 21.15d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

The Advance in Cotton.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 17 states:—

The market has again been completely under the influence of rising prices for raw cotton, and, as was the case last week, sellers who are in a position to accept less than the present cost of production have been able to do business. Generally speaking, there has been an active demand, but it is mostly at the prices prevailing some days earlier, and, except in such cases as that mentioned above, is unworkable.

Yarn.—Prices are roughly 1d. per lb. higher on the week in accordance with the advance in the raw material, and the position of spinners as a whole is probably easier than it has been for some time past. The rapid advance in prices has enabled stocks to be cleared, if not at reproduction prices, at any rate at prices which, compared with the cost of making the yarn itself, are satisfactory. Shipments in October were the largest reported this year, at 14,733,500 lb., compared with 11,987,180 in September, and 16,031,700 lb. in October, 1922.

Cloth:—If the orders booked were reasonably proportionate to the inquiry received, this section would be in a healthy position. Buyers abroad are, however, all the time behind the rising market, and, as a consequence, much of the negotiation is fruitless. Both India and China are apparently in need of supplies. Egypt has made fair offers, whilst the Levant continues to pick up stock lots cheaply. Shipments last month were 371,289,700 sq. yds., against 344,318,800 sq. yds. in September and 353,654,000 sq. yds. in October last year. The feature of the returns continues to be the much increased exports to the United States and a great reduction in those to Germany.

Raw Cotton.—Prices in this section have reached new high levels for both American and Egyptian. Purchase continues to be on a fairly large scale, and reports regarding the crop do not improve. Closing prices are as follows: American Fully Middling, 20.29; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 22.25.

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Near East Markets.

STATE OF EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture for November gives the following particulars:—

Cotton.—The weather was rather unsettled in the majority of provinces during the month under review. The rain which fell in Lower and Middle Egypt towards the middle of October slightly affected the crop, delaying progress of picking. A small proportion of the crop still remains to be picked in Lower and Middle Egypt. The second picking has given somewhat better returns in some districts than was at first hoped for. Ginning out-turns are reported to be poorer than last season.

Millet (Nîli).—The crop is advancing towards maturity. Its condition is slightly better than last month.

Maize (Nîli).—The variable rainy weather has slightly affected the growth of the plants. The crop, however, is rapidly approaching maturity, and part of it has been harvested in early-sown fields.

Rice (Sêfi).—Harvesting and thrashing are in full swing. A normal yield is expected.

Sugar-cane.—The crop is being cut for consumption in the raw state. The growth of the plants is satisfactory. Normal attacks of stem-borer have been reported from all provinces.

Earth-nuts.—Harvesting is general in early-sown fields. The yield prospects are below normal.

Bersîm.—The early-sown crop is growing under favourable conditions. Land is being prepared for permanent bersîm, and sowing is actively taking place.

CULTIVATION IN THE SUDAN.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for September:—

Kassala Province.—The rainfall was poor in Kassala and Butana as compared with August. This has given the people a chance to clean their crops, which were well advanced, but a little more late rain would be all to the good. As regards the southern districts, Mafaza alone is a little short of rain, and dura is reported to be better than last year and simsim about the same; the latter is not good except on high land.

White Nile Province.—Rains have been normal during the month. Crops vary considerably even in the same localities. A plague of "Spanish sparrow" is reported from Kostl district, and from present reports it seems likely that southern district crops will be below the average. The crops at Shawal, which were exceptionally good, have been almost destroyed by these birds. A large number of nests and young birds have been destroyed by the inhabitants aided by the police.

Halfa Province.—The Mamour of Abri reports agriculture generally as good, and he has been giving instructions in the modern methods of cultivation. In Delgo district all dura crops are planted, and the river has been holding very well.

Blue Nile Province.—The rains in most districts stopped too soon for the crops to get full benefit, although the rains during the first half of the month were very good.

Sir George S. Gibb has joined the board of the Oriental Telephone and Electric Company and of the China and Japan Telephone and Electric Company, and has been elected chairman, in succession to the late Sir Henry Babington Smith.

Major-General Sir Reginald Ford, K.C.M.G., C.B., D.S.O., has left England, and will take up duties at the beginning of the New Year as general manager of the Dunlop Company in India.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs, C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended October 27:—

The arrivals of sultanas since the opening of the season are estimated at 20,990 tons, and the sales are put at 19,025 tons. The movement generally of the sultana market is upwards. In spite of the fact that we are approaching what is usually considered a dead period, purchases continue on an active scale as will be noted by the above figures of arrivals and sales to date.

It is not yet possible to pronounce an accurate and reliable opinion as to the extent of the yield. There appear to be two currents of opinion. The more conservative element assess the total stocks in the country, after the deduction of the sales effected to date, amounting to 19,025 tons, at about 12,000 tons. The liberal element assess the stocks at about 15-16,000 tons. It will, however, soon be possible to form a more accurate estimate, reducing the somewhat wide margin of difference.

Figs.—In a recent report we drew attention to the interesting position of this article. During the intervening fortnight naturals have advanced about 4s. per cwt., or ½d. per lb., and everything points to yet higher prices before long owing to the steady exhaustion of stocks.

DEVELOPMENT OF EMPIRE RESOURCES.

The development of the resources of the British Empire has been greatly advanced by the work of the Imperial Institute, an account of which was recently given in the Report on Operations (Bulletin No. 1 of 1923). Further examples of this important work are contained in the current issue of the same Bulletin, just published by Mr. John Murray.

An account is given of the investigations conducted at the Institute under the Ceylon Rubber Research Scheme. Particulars are given of the results of tests of a large number of specimens, prepared in Ceylon by different methods, with a view to ascertaining the mode of preparation best suited to the needs of the manufacturer.

Other subjects of interest referred to are Indian wormseed as a source of the drug santonin; a new essential oil obtained from a Western Australian plant; and the results of practical pottery trials with Australian clays. There is also an interesting illustrated article on the trees of the Gold Coast. The value of a number of Gold Coast and other Colonial timbers is being investigated at the Institute with the advice of a committee which includes representatives of the timber trades and industries of this country.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(*Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.*).

Egypt.

Paper and Bristol Board.—The Egyptian Government Press invite tenders for the supply of paper and Bristol board. December 3. (D.O.T.)

Linotype Metal.—The Government Press, Cairo, invite tenders for the supply of 4,000 kilogs. of linotype metal. November 30. (D.O.T.)

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Shipping Intelligence.

GREEK MERCANTILE MARINE.

It is reported from Athens that negotiations are shortly to be opened there with a view to the conclusion of a commercial agreement between Greece and Soviet Russia (says the *Journal of Commerce*). Greece is particularly concerned about the development of her maritime traffic with South Russian ports, and she is asking that Greek ships calling at Soviet ports shall not be subjected to excessive taxation. A good feeling appears to exist on both sides, and it is specially noted that the Soviet authorities have recently returned to Greece the three steamers Sia, Aghios Dimitrios, and Dorothea, which were seized a couple of years ago in the Black Sea.

A further report from Athens says that two Greek steamers have just been transferred to the Turkish flag. These are the Elian and the Iona, formerly belonging to the Greco-Anglo-Belgian Company, of the Gulf of Smyrna. This company, it is stated, has been purchased by Sadik Bey, the father-in-law of Mustapha Kemal Pasha. The ships in question have been renamed Mustapha Kemal and Smyrne. Sadik Bey has also bought a third steamer, the original name of which is not mentioned, but which will henceforth be known as the Nouvelle-Turquie.

According to the Piræus correspondent of the *Journal de la Marine Marchande*, the policy of Signor Mussolini in regard to Greece has done considerable injury to the commerce and maritime traffic of Italy with the Hellenic kingdom. The exports of Italy to Greece amount to not less than 2,000,000,000 of lire per annum, while Greek exports to the Italian Peninsula amount to only about 100,000,000 lire. At the present time, says the correspondent, the Greek commercial world, despite the advice of the Government, has practically ceased commercial transactions with Italian houses. The Chambers of Commerce, however, have pronounced against the maintenance of this boycott of Italian products, but in spite of this several big importing houses at the Piræus have cancelled large orders.

On the other hand, such Italian ships as have resumed their voyages to Greece are only doing a very insignificant traffic with that country. Mention is made, for example, of a steamer belonging to the Lloyd Triestino which arrived at the Piræus from Trieste at the beginning of October with only two passengers, while another vessel belonging to a Brindisi firm landed no passengers at all, and only one ton of merchandise.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mathura for Calcutta (Birkenhead, November 29); s.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 1); s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 8).

Bibby Line.—S.s Amarapoora for Rangoon (Birkenhead, November 30).

British India Line.—S.s. Domala for Bombay and Karachi (London, November 23); s.s. Mulbera for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, November 24); s.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 7); s.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 8).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Colquhoun for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, November 30).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta, for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 3).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Maronian for Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, November 24).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Registan for Persian Gulf (Manchester, December 8).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Polo for Gibraltar, Malta, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, November 30).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Vedamore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 17); s.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Incemore for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29).

Moss Line.—S.s. Edfou for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (Liverpool, December 1).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Mantua for Bombay (London, November 30); s.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15).

Prince Line.—S.s. Merchant Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, December 1).

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA'S IRON EXPORTS TO GERMANY.

According to the *Prager Tagblatt* of November 4, Czecho-Slovak exports of iron to Germany have experienced a considerable increase during the occupation of the Ruhr district. The total export of iron and iron goods for the first nine months of this year amounted, according to the State Office of Statistics, to 4.4 millions of quintals, of a value of 709 millions of crowns, of which 2.5 million quintals, of a value of 350 million crowns, were exported to Germany. Detailed figures are available only for the first eight months, according to which the exports to Germany were as follows, in quintals, the figures in brackets representing millions of crowns:—Iron and iron goods, about 1,000,000 (103.5); iron and steel, 350,000 (79); tin and plates, 160,000 (29); wire, 170,000 (31); pipes and rollers, 73,000 (25); rails, railway wheels, axles, 142,000 (25).

During the same period the following iron goods were imported from Germany:—970,000 quintals of raw iron and half-finished iron goods, valued at 71 millions; tin and tin plates, 3,300 quintals, valued at 1.9 millions; pipes and rollers, 3,500 quintals, valued at 2.9 millions; tin goods, 3,400 quintals, valued at 4.5 millions; iron tools, 2,600 quintals, valued at 6.3 millions of crowns, etc.

The death took place on November 14, after a long illness, of Mr. Percy Mould, chief manager of the Mercantile Bank of India. Mr. Mould, who was fifty-five years of age, joined the bank in 1889, and in 1911 succeeded Mr. James Campbell as chief manager.

The Exchange of Notes of 1892 regulating the commercial relations between France and Greece expired on September 11, but an arrangement has been entered into whereby as from that date all French goods are subject to the "Conventional" Tariff duties on importation into Greece, and all Greek goods except ordinary wines are subject to the "Minimum" Tariff rates on importation into France.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 655—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Crisis.

It is significant of the agitation in favour of a republic in Greece that no sins of commission or omission are alleged against the present sovereign, apart from the charge, now accepted as being without foundation, connecting him with the recent revolt. King George II. has been on the throne for fourteen months, and it is admitted that during this period he has made no attempt to challenge or evade his constitutional position, which leaves all real power in the hands of his Ministers. In view of the special circumstances which have kept the Government of the day subordinate to the Revolutionary Committee, King George's experience has probably not been a happy one; but to his credit it can be said that he has done nothing to justify the establishment of a republic. The advocates of the latter rely on the feeling against the late King Constantine, and maintain that in view of his shortcomings, the dynasty can no longer be of any service to the country. It is not clear that they have any more definite arguments to urge in favour of a republic. If only the War period could be temporarily forgotten, it might be recalled that in the past the Balkan States were inclined to set great store on the assets that they possessed in their respective dynasties. In the shaking of thrones that the Great War produced it was shown that individual rulers might fail their countries; but it has yet to be proved whether the genius of a people that has always accepted the monarchical idea unquestioned can be suddenly adapted to a republican *régime*.

The Republican Spirit.

In the presence of the Turkish republic it may be necessary to revise the popular conception of this form of government. General Metaxas, who has reached Paris after his escape from Greece, declares that the suggested change in Greece to a republican *régime* is a mere mask to put on the face of the dictatorship. Whether his diagnosis be correct or not, there will be many who will see in his allegation an explanation of the tangled course of events in Greece. It was the desire to put an end to the dictatorship of the Revolutionary Committee that prompted General Leonardopoulos and General Gargalides, according to their own account, to revolt against the Government. They failed, according to General Metaxas, owing to the popular distrust in them as Venizelists; and, although General Metaxas was prepared to give them his moral support, he denies that he took any part in preparing or in directing the insurrection. His flight from Greece he explains as due to the fact that the Government, on the strength of the military revolt, was about to deal summarily with the Opposition, of which he was the head. General Metaxas' statement illustrates the chaotic condition of Greek politics, and it becomes more and more certain that the nation is not in the proper frame of mind to pass a reasoned judgment on the Constitution of the country.

Britain and Turkey.

General Harington has returned from Turkey with a distinct liking for the Turks and, as well, with their genuine respect—by no means a slight tribute to the Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Occupation. He pleads for fair dealing and a square deal with the Turks. The best British—good, honest traders—will, he believes, be perfectly all right in Turkey, and to all Britons who go to the country he would urge the advantage of gaining the respect of the Turks. General Harington, however, is under no illusions about the Turks. The burden of his remarks, if we have interpreted his speeches correctly, is that all that is required for the maintenance of satisfactory relations between Turkey and Great Britain is that the British should be—British. The Turks will remain Turks; but Britain conjures up for them certain qualities such as sympathy, tact, and fair play: they will continue to look for these qualities, and when they meet them there will be little fault to be found with the Turks concerned by those possessing these qualities. General Harington would seem to have discovered a truth which is so often hidden from those who interest themselves in one or other of the peoples of the Near East, that sympathy need not entail sycophancy.

Extremists.

The agitation among the Arabs in Jaffa against the action of the Municipal Council in making a

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contract for a supply of electricity from the Rutenberg installation shows that no outside encouragement is required to keep alive Arab unrest in Palestine. If it were, it could take no more effective form than the suggestion attributed to Mr. Jabotinsky, a keen Zionist, who once held a commission in the British Army, that Jewish forces should be organised for the defence of Palestine. "If Zionism was worth anything," he is reported to have said, "Jews must be willing to organise themselves, to train and to submit to proper discipline in order to be able to defend Zionism themselves. The British garrison of Palestine must consist exclusively of Jewish soldiers." This foolish statement, it is to be feared, will in future be coupled with the declaration that Palestine is to be made as Jewish as England is English, and will be cited as further justification for Arab irreconcilability. It is overlooked by the Arabs that the British Government is in no way bound by the statements of enthusiastic Zionists, whether occupying responsible positions in the organisation or not. At one time some allowance had to be made for Arab fears of what might happen in the future; but the British Administration has made it quite clear what its policy is to be in Palestine, and it can now legitimately require the Arabs to judge it by its acts and not by what a speaker here or there may recommend it to do. In view of the relative standing of the two communities, Arab fears are, perhaps, not so surprising as Zionist indiscretions.

The New Persian Ministry.

Our Correspondent in Teheran in a letter published on another page confirms the good impression created by the new Persian Ministry. Sardar Sepah, the Prime Minister, is a strong man, and has a knack of carrying through the things that he wishes to see done. He has struck a new note in outlining the Ministry's programme. In the place of an elaborate series of reforms he confines himself to the protection and safeguarding, to the best of his ability, of the country's interests and integrity, and to "causing its laws to be respected in every way." It is to be hoped that Sardar Sepah will reckon among Persia's interests the maintenance of good relations with Great Britain. At the present moment this not unimportant item in Persian affairs is being allowed to go by default owing to the agitation of certain priests, who have either been deported from Irak or have left it of their own accord. No one will take the anti-British demonstrations seriously; but it is just possible that too much licence in this direction, in contradistinction to the firmer hand in other directions, may lead the people to suppose that they are currying favour with the Government in indulging in these demonstrations.

Bahrein.

In our issue of July 12 a correspondent in the Persian Gulf gave an interesting account of events in Bahrein, where it had been found advisable to recommend Sheikh Isa al Khalifah to withdraw after a very long rule from participation in the direction of affairs and to allow his eldest son Sheikh Hamad to act as regent. At the same time steps were taken to remove the worst abuses that had crept into the native administration, and in particular the members of the Al Khalifah family were warned that they could no longer expect to be maintained in indolence out of the public revenues. Those who had the ability and the will to assist in the administration of the islands could count on obtaining posts, but those who lacked the necessary qualifications could expect to receive no more than a bare subsistence allowance. To judge from a letter that we have received from one of the members of this family, Mohamed bin Abdullah al Khalifah, dated Bahrein, 20 Saffar, 1342 (October 2), the new arrangement is not to their liking, and the attempt is made to identify the new policy in Bahrein with the Political Agent on the spot. This policy, however, was not adopted without due consideration on the part of the competent authorities. Of the ability of the writer of the letter there can be little doubt, and if he has failed to obtain a post in the administration of the islands we must infer that he was lacking in the necessary good will. The difficulties of the situation are apparent, and there will always be some irreconcilables where changes of the kind entailed have to be made. We should like to think, however, that the traditions of British administrative supervision in the Persian Gulf, so conspicuously upheld for a number of years by Sir Percy Cox, are being maintained after his retirement, and that, although the natives may inveigh against certain measures which do not please them, they will never have any ground for declaring that they are no longer handled with sympathy and tact or in accordance with strict justice.

The Indian Elections.

The public in this country, which has its own electoral interests just now, is being told very little of the progress of the elections in India, and such news as has appeared during the last few days has dealt mainly with picturesque incidents in the campaign, so that it is difficult for ordinary men to get an idea how things are actually going. We have read, for instance, a long story of the capture and deportation of a party of voters in a particular constituency, but such tactics cannot by themselves secure a majority in the legislature, and the trick serves to show only that the anti-Westerners have been seeking inspiration in the "Pickwick Papers" instead of the Mahabharata. At the time of writing there is nothing to suggest that any of the larger provinces will return an actual majority pledged to bring about a constitutional deadlock, though some of the legislatures will certainly contain a substantial proportion of wreckers, and until the new members have met and sorted themselves out, it would be futile to attempt a forecast of the course of legislative business under the changed conditions.

Lord Reading on Agriculture.

In the congenial atmosphere of Lyallpur Lord Reading was for once able to ignore political topics, and his enthusiastic appreciation of the achievement which that name stands for will be echoed by all who recognise that the new India must make money in order to make good. Lyallpur is the capital of a tract of desert transformed into a garden by the concerted efforts of technical experts and prescient administrators. Hard-working peasants enjoy there the scope denied to them in the congested country to the east or south, and can think of something more than feeding themselves and paying the rent. Just now they are growing first-class wheat and medium-class cotton for the markets of the world, and, though they may grumble, as peasants are apt to do, they are making money on a scale which English farmers would be only too glad to imitate. Nor is the achievement to be regarded as microscopic, for the population of the reclaimed desert is about equal to that of the whole Dominion of New Zealand. It will be the fault of the inhabitants themselves if it ever succumbs to the congestion which is everywhere the penalty of over-concentration on a single industry.

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Research and Results.

Speaking of the medium-stapled cotton which India is now exporting to Europe, it may be worth while to correct the misapprehension that it is the work of a day, a misapprehension which has recently been prominent in the English Press. The cotton now reaching this country represents the firstfruits of work initiated when Lord Curzon was Viceroy, and carried on continuously with, at the outset, little or no visible result: to describe it as the outcome of what was done two or three years ago, as paragraphists have been doing, is to give an entirely mistaken view. The task of agricultural research is continuous and progressive; by-and-by there will be more cotton of the grade wanted in Europe, and probably there will also be cotton of a grade somewhat higher than is now being offered. The scientific work which is being done to-day ought to give comparatively rapid results, but that it is possible at all is due to the pioneers, who, starting almost entirely in the dark, laboriously determined the fundamental conditions of success; and the moral of the latest market developments is one on which we have recently laid stress—that a poor country in particular cannot afford to economise on scientific research.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

Political Trends.

It is impossible not to admire, but it is equally impossible to understand, those whose minds are already made up on how to vote at the forthcoming election. Those lucky people who had political convictions before the War, who really do believe that one particular party has more virtues than another, have, of course, an easy task; but there are others who quite cheerfully are content to vote on the chance that Protection may turn out all right. Delightful gamblers, whom one can but wish well!

But how it is all going to end still no one knows. In the face of considerable difficulties the three parties have presented to the outward world a united front, and are going forward as merrily as a marriage bell. As far as personal observation goes, the Labour people are the most enthusiastic, the Conservatives the most plausible, and the Liberals the most reasoned. But Liberal principles, unless enunciated by a man with personality, are so very dull and negative.

No one, incidentally, believes in the real healing of the various splits in the parties, and everyone is afraid of that terrible bugbear, the Centre Party, with, perhaps, a Labour Minister or two thrown in. So it comes about that the more intelligent section of the populace (what percentage that is I have not the least idea) is rather voting against people and things than for anybody or anything. As a nation we are becoming inured to the least bad.

The Liberal Honeymoon.

Mr. Lloyd George has supported Mr. Asquith on the same platform at Paisley, and, more inspiring still, on the walls of the National Liberal Club have been rehung the portraits of Mr. Lloyd George and of Mr. Winston Churchill. To all this demonstration the scribes and servers have paid due homage; but what does it all mean? Does anyone seriously imagine that as soon as the honeymoon is over the Liberal bride and bridegroom will not be divorced from one another? Does anyone believe that Mr. Churchill will slumber in the arms of Sir Donald Maclean, when the opposite charms of Lord Birkenhead are ever calling him? One need but look at the Rothermere Press to see what the answer of millions will be to these questions.

Lord Morley's Papers.

Probably this, more than any other, is an age of biography; practically no politician, in particular, escapes the fate of a book written on him within a year of his death. That so common a destiny should not be his was obviously the determination of Lord Morley, who, it is recently learned, forbade his executors to allow his papers to be approached by persons desirous of writing memoirs of him. This act, though well in keeping with the austerity of his life, has raised a huge amount of comment, so rare is such reservation in the present day. Apparently Lord Morley thought that he himself had left sufficient material for the writing of his life in his own "Recollections"; certainly he was one of the wise few who believe that the correct view of men and of affairs is the close view. The modern orthodox view is, of course, that time must elapse and distance be journeyed before a right estimation of a man or of an event can be made: it is on such rubbishy theory, in fact, that historians earn their pay.

The New Europe.

So many times we have been told that Germany is breaking up that now, when the reality is approaching, we seem almost to neglect the fact. It appears that the new Europe will inform itself under our blind, unheeding eyes. The other day I heard a Labour candidate describe the French occupation of the Ruhr as the cruellest act in the history of the world; but surely, of all the impotent attitudes ever struck in British history, ours at this moment is the most remarkable. The whole of Central Europe, they say, is being shaped under French guidance; yet what are we doing? Nothing, unless we belong to the Liberal or the Labour Party, and then we murmur unfeasible words about granting a loan to Germany.

Admittedly, the sentiment of almost all visitors to Germany turns towards the Germans. But, thank Heaven, unreasoning and forgetful sentiment has not wholly clogged the minds of our present Government, and while they exist, there is still hope of our being able, at some time or other, to have some influence on the European situation. But we still await action on their part.

It is, however, an absolute fact that the most important news of the week-end was to the majority of the people, not the fall of the Stresemann Cabinet but the scratching of the Manchester November Handicap. There is not the slightest doubt that the most popular, as well as the most erroneous, policy at the moment is the "Little England" policy.

November Days.

For those in London recent days have not been of the happiest. In the country it has been different, but in town the winds and the frosts and the fogs must have struck dismay into the foreigners. The wits are already saying that summer is over, the optimists that one must expect this kind of weather in November. The pessimists relate that every other person has a cold (they themselves are always one of the "others"), and predict the severest of winters. And the 99 per cent., the rest of the folk, just take these chill mists and really icy blasts as they come, and get on with their hearty talk about tariffs, Smith and Newman, and the remaining things over which men will eternally wrangle.

Broadcasting.

The war between the broadcasting companies and the theatre managers still continues, and in-

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terest was directed anew on it last week when it was stated that Mr. C. B. Cochran, who appears to be the Lord Rothermere of the theatres, had given permission for "Little Nellie Kelly" to be broadcasted. Impolite things were at once said about him by the theatrical conservatives, but he was always a man who recognised facts and rather revelled in a fight, so that in a day or two we may have something other than these tiresome politics to read about.

Meanwhile inventions in wireless are proceeding briskly. The other night an opera at the "Old Vic." was transmitted by wireless to the Central Broadcasting Station, which re-transmitted to the rest of the world. And an instrument has also just been made which dispenses with the outside aerial. It is called the "Puratone aerial" (15s.), and it is said to increase considerably the purity and tone of reception.

Early Marriage a Duty.

A curious wave has recently swept through the Press of advocacy for early marriage. It is strange that hardened men should dare to lay down any kind of law at all about marriage, that institution less subject than any other to laws, but so it is. Some writers declare that early marriages mean happiness; others, like Professor Pembrey, go further, and state that they are a duty. "The greatest service," he says, "a woman can do is to marry early"; and he appears to think that eighteen is an admirable age at which to marry.

If one views the matter biologically, I suppose one should come to some such conclusion, but has any satisfactory marriage been reached on biological grounds alone, or, at any rate, foremost? The truth is that most men and women do not care a fig for the State or for the race; why they marry Heaven alone knows, and the attempt to unravel and alter the inscrutable can cause only amusement. Not even under a Labour Government will the ordinary marriage be conducted on scientific lines or cease to be anything but a romance.

The Affairs of Ireland.

With the elections on in this country few people have any time to turn to Irish matters. But two things have recently occurred in Ireland that are of interest: the hunger-strike ordered by the Republican leaders (not, however, by Mr. De Valera, who is still in isolated confinement), which began in October, has now collapsed, and the Free State's launching of a National Loan. There is no hope that Republican opposition has entirely ceased, but the impression appears to be general that the loan will be easily subscribed.

Dr. Clifford.

The death last week of Dr. John Clifford removed from our midst, or, rather, from our extremes, a figure of considerable significance. In him were summed up both the good and the bad points of that historical phenomenon, which ever and again occurs in the history of England, "the Nonconformist conscience." Within certain limits our modern Puritans are an admirable society, but as a political force (a force extremely cleverly worked upon and still being tapped by Mr. Lloyd George) it has without doubt lost its hold on our time. Those years of "passive resistance," when men allowed furniture to be taken out of their houses and, a few hours after its removal, bought it back again— all as a protest against the Education Act—seem incredibly distant. Another generation and it is probable that such men as Dr. Clifford will have ceased to exist.

Alter Ego.

GENERAL SIR CHARLES HARINGTON.

During the past week Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Royal Colonial Institute and at a dinner given by the Near and Middle East Association. The luncheon given by the Royal Colonial Institute was at the Victoria Hotel, on November 20, Sir Charles McLeod, chairman of Council, presiding. Among those present, in addition to Lady Harington, were the Marquess Curzon of Kedleston, Lord Meston, Lord Lamington, Sir Percy and Lady Cox, Lieut.-General Sir Robert Whigham, Lieut.-General Sir Travers Clarke, Sir James Willcocks, Sir Godfrey Lagden, Lady Goold Adams, and the High Commissioners for Australia and New Zealand. Speaking in support of the toast of "Our Guest," Lord Curzon paid a warm tribute to General Harington, whose qualities of diplomacy had been shown to be indeed remarkable. His own task at Lausanne had been rendered infinitely easier by the part that had been played at Mudania by General Harington. In his reply, Sir Charles Harington pointed out that he could claim only that he had kept his head and his temper, both of which things he was paid to do. He went out as a British soldier, and had returned as a British soldier. To the two protagonists they had been absolutely neutral. His job had been to keep law and order among the many nations out in Constantinople, and he mentioned that at a farewell garden-party no less than twenty-one nations, including the Irish, to which Lady Harington and he belonged, were represented. It had been a near thing before and at the time of the Mudania Conference; but there were three factors in the problem. The greatest factor was Lord Curzon himself in Paris, the next was the splendid body of reinforcements sent to him, and the third was the friendship he formed, after the fifth day at Mudania, with Ismet Pasha. He paid a tribute to General Marden, the commander at Chanak, and to the troops under his command; he also spoke highly of the support given him by the French and Italian commanders. The humanity of the British troops was shown by the great work that they did for the refugees, and at one time it became almost necessary to intervene to prevent the individual soldier from giving up so much of his ration to the refugees.

The dinner by the Near and Middle East Association was given to Sir Charles and Lady Harington at the Savoy Hotel on November 23. Major-General Lord Edward Gleichen presided, and among those present were Lady Edward Gleichen, Viscountess Dupplin, Lord Raglan, the Bulgarian Minister and Mademoiselle Stancioff, the Afghan Minister, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, the Rt. Honourable Ameer Ali, Sir Edward and Lady Boyle, the Dowager Lady Boyle, Brigadier-General A. Burt, Sir Denison and Lady Ross, Sir George and Lady Sutherland, Sir Henry and Lady Sharp, and Sir Simeon and Lady Stuart. The health of Sir Charles Harington was proposed by Lord Edward Gleichen. In his reply, General Harington spoke of the relations between Turkey and Great Britain. His object after peace was settled was to leave on the best possible terms with the Turks. It was the best way, he thought, in which he could help the British Colony in Constantinople, to whom this country owed a great debt of gratitude. He hoped that friendship would be restored between Turkey and Great Britain, and he believed that honest dealing with the Turks would change their dislike of the British into liking. Ismet Pasha had assured him that what the Turks wanted was the friendship of Great Britain.

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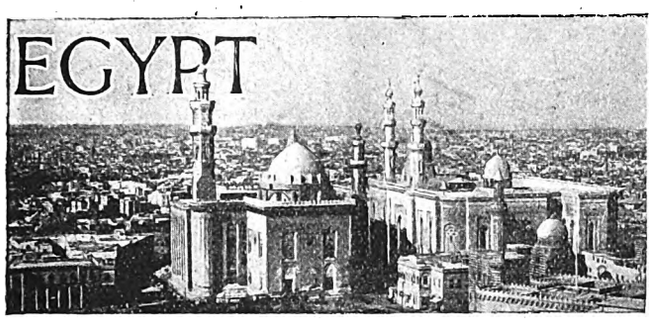

Cairo, November 17.

Armistice Day Celebrations.

Armistice Day was celebrated as usual in Cairo and Alexandria by services in the churches and at the cemeteries. In Cairo a service was held in the morning at All Saints' Church, where a large congregation, headed by the High Commissioner and Lady Allenby, was present. In the afternoon there was a large gathering—considerably larger than in the preceding year—at the cemetery at Old Cairo, where a service was conducted by the Right Reverend Bishop Gwynne, Archdeacon Palmer, the Rev. G. V. Yeoman, the Rev. James Black, and the Rev. J. Dwyer O'Kelly. The High Commissioner was present in uniform with Viscountess Allenby, Lieut.-General Sir Richard Haking, G.O.C. British troops in Egypt, and Sir Lee Stack, Sirdar of the Egyptian Army; and the musical part of the service was supplied by the band of the 2nd Battalion Dorset Regiment.

The service, which was a very simple but impressive one, closed with the Last Post and the Reveillé, played by the buglers of the Royal Ulster Rifles, and the singing of the National Anthem, after which a large number of wreaths were laid on the Stone of Remembrances. Thanks to the energetic efforts of the Committee in charge, a wreath was provided for each of the graves, and the many who remained behind to look for the resting-place of old friends were very much impressed by the special care which has been bestowed on this part of the British cemetery.

In Alexandria, the commemoration took the form of a ceremony in the morning in the military cemetery at Hadra, where the service was conducted by the Rev. W. D. Batty, and the address given by the Rev. G. C. Bohn, while almost simultaneously a service was held in St. Andrew's Church.

A Political Event.

The political event of the week has been the reception of Saad Pasha Zaghloul by King Fuad. It may be remembered that a reconciliation took place after Saad Pasha's arrival in Alexandria last September, but that since that time the relations between the Palace and the Wafd had become strained again owing to Saad Pasha's speeches, to which the King quite rightly took exception. Efforts have latterly been made by interested parties to bring Zaghloul Pasha once again into contact with his Sovereign, and these have now proved successful.

Following the example of the majority of his fellow-countrymen, Saad Pasha went to the Palace on Friday in order to sign in the book on the occasion of the birth of Princess Faiza. When he entered the Palace he was met by the Grand Chamberlain, who conducted him to the Grand Salon, where the book was brought to him for signature and an intimation was conveyed to him by the Aide-de-Camp in Chief that King Fuad would be glad to receive him in audience. Saad Pasha naturally accepted the invitation, and was closeted for nearly an hour in private conference with the King. What transpired between them has not been divulged, but the meeting is regarded as likely to have an important bearing on the political situation.

Meanwhile, all parties are getting very active, and several important meetings have been held this week by the Constitutional Liberals. Mohamed Mahmud Pasha, one of the leading members of the party, started the series in an electioneering speech delivered at the end of last week, the main theme of which was refutation of Saad Pasha's accusations levelled at the leaders of that party, and demonstration that all his criticisms, as well as all his acts, are dictated by purely personal motives. There were several attempts on the part of students to break up the meeting, but these failed, and the audience, which numbered well over 2,000, and included numerous leading notables, appeared thoroughly to approve of the speaker's declarations.

The Residency Staff.

An important change has taken place at the Residency, where the Hon. E. S. Scott has been succeeded as Counsellor by Mr. Clark Kerr. Mr. Scott came to Egypt in 1919 in succession to Sir Milne Cheetham. Although he has not figured prominently in the limelight, Mr. Scott has done a good deal of important work during his stay, including the negotiation of the agreement with the Egyptian Government for the provisional handling of cases of British officials entitled to retire, and the recent law regulating definitely the conditions of retirement and terms of compensation.

Mr. A. Clark Kerr came to Egypt in 1922 as First Secretary, in succession to Mr. W. Selby. He had already acquired a reputation in Morocco, and the experience he gained there undoubtedly stood him in good stead in the work which he has been called upon to do since his arrival in Cairo. During the past two years he has, in fact,

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.**

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played a great part in the handling of the various political questions which have had to be dealt with, and their successful negotiation has been in a large measure due to the marked ability he has displayed. He has undoubtedly gained the esteem of all communities, Egyptian as well as European, and his promotion to the post of Counsellor, coupled with the fact that, contrary to usage, he is to remain in Cairo, has been hailed with satisfaction, since on the one hand it is a well-merited recognition of the very valuable services he has rendered, and on the other hand it may be intercepted as an indication of the continuation of the policy with which he has been so successfully identified.

The Financial Adviserships.

Mr. R. S. Patterson has now finally taken over the duties of Financial Adviser, and Mr. E. M. Dowson, who has held the post since 1919, has left for England after spending a few days in Palestine. The appointment of Mr. Patterson has been received with great pleasure by the Egyptian community as well as the British and foreign residents, for he has long been looked upon as the ideal candidate for that post for which his long experience in the service of the Egyptian Government and his personality admirably fit him.

Mr. Dowson leaves after a quarter of a century in the Egyptian service. He has held the senior British position in the Government during what has probably been the most difficult period any Financial Adviser has ever experienced. He assumed office just after the wave of political unrest had swept over the country, and during his tenure of office he has witnessed the most radical changes in financial policy, culminating in the handing over of the financial administration of the country to the Egyptians, and in the relegation of the duties of Financial Adviser to a purely advisory rôle. The transition period has passed without any disorganisation or friction—which redounds to the credit of the British officials in the Ministry of Finance, at whose head Mr. Dowson has stood, and they all have the satisfaction of knowing that when the responsibility for the financial administration of the country was transferred to the Egyptians, the position was sound and flourishing.

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YUGOSLAVIA.

Liubliana, November 21.

The Question of Fiume.

In one of his statements in the Roman Senate Signor Mussolini said that a good solution of the Fiume question might be the engagement-ring between Italy and Yugoslavia. There is much truth in these words, because there is no doubt but that a *good* solution of the Fiume question can ensue only if the will for a loyal and sincere understanding gains the upper hand in Rome and Belgrade alike. And this also is true, that among the questions that have arisen, that of Fiume, as the starting-point of the Adriatic question, is the one which most surely indicates the measure of that good will. Yet, in spite of the importance of the Fiume question, there is another question of decisive moment, and this lies almost outside the scope of the two Governments.

This is the question of the Yugoslavs in Italy. The nationalist Fascists will consider no possibility but the assimilation, or, rather, the Italianisation of the Yugoslavs in Italy. And this is also the line followed by Italy's policy in the Littoral. In the meantime it is scarcely to be expected that the Yugoslavs should in any way take kindly to this point of view. Hence there is little chance that the solution of the Fiume question could become "the engagement-ring between Italy and Yugoslavia" until public opinion in Italy is willing to realise that the Yugoslavs in Italy may be loyal Italian citizens, even if they be permitted to preserve their mother tongue.

The Internal Situation.

The Parliamentary situation is stationary. For a moment it seemed as if the Germans would join the Opposition on account of the cession to Roumania of Zombolje, a purely German town with 12,000 inhabitants and a fairly-well developed industry. It speaks volumes for conditions in Yugoslavia that the Germans are so well satisfied in this Slav State that they object to being transferred to the citizenship of another State. As Yugoslavia receives in exchange for Zombolje three Serb villages with a total population about as large as that of Zombolje, the action of the Belgrade Government is quite intelligible.

Parliament will meet for the ordinary session on November 26, when its chief task will be to deal with the Budget.

The Yugoslav Budget.

The first Yugoslav Budget was drafted for the year 1919-20, but was not passed by the Provisional Parliament then in session—the so-called National Representation. The second Budget was drawn up in 1920 for the 1920-21, and the third, the first proper Budget, was for the year 1922-23.

As a rule every State Budget should be based upon the experience and the average figures of three preceding Budgets; but this rule is not applicable in Yugoslavia—first, because of the constant fluctuations in the value of her currency, and secondly, in default of a properly elaborated State Budget. This comes out very clearly in the figures of the various Budgets:—

For the year	1919-20	...	1,558·2 million dinars
,,	1920-21	...	3,994·3 ,, ,,
,,	1921-22	...	6,136·7 ,, ,,
,,	1922 23	...	8,134·5 ,, ,, (including supplementary credits amounting to 1,200 million dinars); and
,,	1923-24	...	10,344 million dinars.

During the first three years the State deficit was usually covered with loans from the National Bank (amounting to 2,500 million dinars). During

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the last two years conditions improved considerably, and the deficits were covered partly by the 7 per cent. Internal Loan of 500 million dinars, and partly with the Blair Loan, of which, however, only the first instalment was realised.

Now, for the first time, all State expenditure is to be covered entirely by the Budget. To that end taxes have been raised considerably, and an increase of 4 milliard dinars in the revenue was realised thereby.

The outstanding feature in the Yugoslav Budget is the very large sum estimated for official salaries—amounting to 50 per cent. of the entire Budget, whereas even in the old Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, which was notoriously an official-ridden State, this charge amounted only to 25 to 33 per cent. of the Budget. The size of this item in the Yugoslav Budget is due to the large number of autonomous administrations which necessitate almost everywhere a dual administration and are a legacy of the seven different State allegiances. From the technical standpoint of finance, therefore, autonomy comes expensive! How heavy a burden the official salaries constitute upon the Budget is proved also by the large number of State employees, which, despite the "cut" of 15,000 employees provided for in the new Budget—still amounts to 137,327—surely a very large number for a total, predominantly agricultural, population of twelve million.

In the Budget the estimates are as follows: for the annuities, 149 million dinars, or 1.44 per cent.; for the Army, 2,049 million, or 17.71 per cent.; and for the Civil Administration, 8,155 million, or 78.84 per cent. According to the Budget, Yugoslavia is, therefore, by no means bellicose, merely to the amount of about 5 million sterling!

The Minister of Finance also deserves credit for making an honest effort to regulate the State Finances. In this he has not been quite successful owing to the scant economy shown by the public. This was also evident in the Finance Committee, in which Opposition and Government deputies vied with each other as to who could obtain most for his particular constituency. Solely on this account the Budget was increased by 12,000 million dinars by the amendments. Fortunately, none of these amendments will be allowed to stand: because the Minister of Finance has succeeded in having them cancelled by the Council of Ministers, and so it is a foregone conclusion that the Government majority will likewise agree.

The Parcellation.

The much (but not always justly) abused Vidovdan Constitution decrees that the individual self-governing districts may not number more than 800,000 souls. The manner of the carrying-out of the Vidovdan Constitution is determined by the Law relative to the administrative division of the State. It is clear from the outset that every Government is bound to respect the Constitution—which, by the way, was passed in a perfectly legal and legitimate manner—and, therefore, to carry it out irrespective of the protest of the Autonomists and Federalists. Nothing short of a revision can legally prevent the carrying out of the Constitution, and this cannot be realised without a revisionist majority in the Skupshtina. But for the time being, the majority of the deputies, even if we include the Raditch deputies, are for the Constitution.

But in order to meet the wishes of the Autonomists without infringing the Constitution, the following scheme has been put forward by the Government. The division of Croatia into Great Shires (*velike zupanije*) will be effected. But for all the *Zupanijas* together a special delegation will be appointed under its own chief or representative, and this delegation will have the right to deal with almost every question without appeal to the Central Government. Under this scheme Slovenia would also receive a delegate in Liubliana with the same rights as those in Zagreb. These delegations, in conjunction with the administrative courts already in existence, would provide a sure guarantee for the safe-guarding of autonomous interests. The whole scheme would provide a sound basis for local government in the various districts, and incidentally greatly lighten the burden upon the Central Government. On the other hand, it is almost certain that these delegations will mean a fresh increase in the public pay roll. This, indeed, is not quite inevitable, if good will on the part of Autonomists and Government alike is brought to bear on the question.

The "parcellation" would thereby lose much of its radical character, and might be rendered acceptable even to the Autonomists by a judicious intervention on the part of M. Raditch.

Some Election Results

On November 18 the election for the Students' Relief Union took place in Zagreb. This election is worth noting, because adherents of all parties are represented in the Union, which is the largest Academic Union in Zagreb. It may, therefore, safely be said that this election faithfully reflects the views of the Croatian youth.

1,169 students recorded their votes. The Democrats scored 402 votes, the Separatists (including Raditch adherents) 323, the Economic *bloc* (Agrarian, adherents of the *Slobodna Tribuna*, Republicans) 239, the Clericals 115, and the Radicals 90. Hence there were for Yugoslav unity and against Raditch separatism 402, 239, and 90 votes, total 731 votes; in other words, an absolute majority. This result speaks louder than all the asseverations of M. Raditch, and it is not improbable that the next General Election will speak in the same terms.

In Slovenia the swing of the pendulum seems to be making itself felt already. There have been several communal by-elections recently, effected by the same electorate as that which votes for Parliament. In the greater number of cases the Slovene People's Party, the leading Autonomist party in Slovenia, was badly defeated, and in some communes has gone down to a mere 40 per cent.

The Yugoslav people is beginning to realise more and more that its policy must be governed by economic questions, and not by mere race prejudice. But this awakening means the end of the Autonomist movement.

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ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November.

New Bills.

The Parliament has now been in session for a month. The new Budget has not yet been voted, and none of the expected laws has yet been before the House. The Trade Marks Law and the Mining Law are still in course of preparation, and the secrecy which apparently surrounds the preparation of the latter is causing considerable anxiety, especially to the petroleum companies, many of whom are awaiting answers to the applications, filed one to two years ago, for permission to renew their leases of oil-bearing land. It is expected that in considering these applications some distinction will be made between those filed before the voting of the new Constitution and those filed after.

The King in the Banat.

The King, accompanied by the President of the Council, M. I. C. Bratiano, arrived in Arad, Transylvania, last Saturday morning, where he was met by the Ministers Vaitoianu and Mosoiu, the town authorities, and by enthusiastic crowds of the citizens. According to the Press reports, His Majesty drove, "amid the delirious ovations" of the crowds, first to the Cathedral, and then to visit the "Astra" factory, one of the most important factories in the country for the production and repair of railway material. His Majesty made a patriotic speech expressing his solicitude for the well-being of the laborious population of the Banat, and appealed to all, without distinct of religion or nationality, to work together for the consolidation of the Greater Roumania.

On Sunday His Majesty continued his journey to Timisoara, where he was received with equal enthusiasm. Thousands of peasants from the neighbouring country came into town to welcome him, and it is reported that there must have been two hundred thousand people in the streets. His Majesty's drive to the Cathedral is described as a veritable triumphal march. A review of troops was held during the morning, and at 2 p.m. a large banquet was held. Timisoara is a well-kept and flourishing industrial town doing considerable foreign trade, and has for the last year or more had a British Vice-Consul. It must be a matter of great satisfaction to the Roumanian Government to note that His Majesty's visit to the Banat, one of the territories annexed since the War, has been so popular.

The Domnesti Explosion.

A tremendous explosion occurred on Saturday at the fort of Domnesti, a few miles out of Bucharest to the south-west. Fifteen people were killed and twenty-nine injured, chiefly workmen. Sixty waggons of ammunition were destroyed. The first and second explosions were sharply felt even in the furthest ends of the city, and in the centre and south-west quarters a great many windows were smashed. Smaller explosions occurred during the night. The cause seems to have been traced to the incautious handling by a new employee of a bomb which he was trying to take to pieces. It exploded and killed him, and the sparks from it ignited other bombs lying near.

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IRAK.

Baghdad, November 14.

The Organic Law.

The draft Organic Law for Irak, which will be laid before the Constitutional Assembly when the elections are completed, has now been published in the local Press. It is very long, and it is not surprising that it has not yet evoked anything serious in the way of criticism. Some time will no doubt elapse before those who are qualified to criticise it have had time to consider it carefully and prepare any studied comment. Till then one must be content with what one has already received from the Press, giving congratulations both to the Government for having published the draft law in time to enable the electorate to consider it, and to Irak itself on having reached such a state of political development that it should be even within reasonable distance of possessing an organic law at all. The draft law provides for a limited monarchy as the form of government, with two legislative assemblies, a Senate and a Lower House. Arabic is to be the official language, and Islam the official religion, but there is to be complete freedom of worship for all sects and religions. All Irakis are to be equal before the law without distinction on account of race, religion, or language.

Irak and Persia.

A foolishly provocative series of articles has appeared of late in the local vernacular Press. On a mere rumour that the Minister for War in Persia was moving troops towards Mohammerah, and that he meant to break the power of all tribal amirs in Persia, especially those who are not of Persian origin, the local Press has taken up the cudgels on the Sheikh of Mohammerah's behalf, and made scarcely veiled hints that they regard the Sheikh as an Arab and closely connected with Irak, and that the Arabs will take a very serious view of any attempt by Riza Khan or the Persian Government to interfere in any way with the Sheikh's position or to try to exert its authority over the Arabs under his control. A protest made to the papers by the Persian Consul-General in Baghdad did nothing to improve the tone of the articles, which can do no good to Irak or to the Sheikh, and can only result in perpetuating the ill-feeling which already exists between Irakis and Persians.

The Shah's Transit.

The Shah arrived in Baghdad on Thursday morning *en route* for Europe. He was met at the station by the High Commissoiner, Sir Henry Dobbs, the Air Officer Commanding, Air-Marshal Sir John Salmond, and representatives of King Faisal. He left at noon for Syria by the Nairn Transport Company's cars, spending the night at Ramadi, where he was joined by Qauram as Sultanah erstwhile Prime Minister of Persia, who had left Baghdad the day before the Shah, also *en route* for Europe.

The High Commissioner's Visits.

The High Commissioner spent only a day or two in Baghdad on his return from his tour in Mosul before he went out again on a short visit to Diwaniyah, whence he has now returned again to Baghdad.

Miscellaneous News.

Much inconvenience is being caused in Baghdad by the appallingly bad condition of the notes now in circulation. Many of them have been torn, and are now nothing more than a few odd pieces stuck on to a background of stouter paper, and all are extremely dirty. Further, the supply is not equal to the demand, and banks have had to make payments in silver owing to this shortage. Unless a

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new supply of notes is obtained very soon we shall be reduced to the use of coin only, and rupee coinage is not one which can comfortably be used to any considerable extent, owing to the inconvenient size and weight of the coins.

Sports have been much to the fore during the past few days, for the Baghdad week, which had to be postponed owing to the military situation in March, was held in Armistice week, and Baghdad has been full of Service visitors, especially from the North. It is proposed shortly to start a series of triangular matches between Air Force, Army, and civilian teams at cricket, Rugby and Association football, hockey, golf, and tennis. This is a new departure which should provide good sport and produce some very good matches.

The racing season in Baghdad opened on November 3 on the new racecourse between South Gate and Alwiyah. The greater convenience of the site and the big improvement in the accommodation as compared with the old course produced considerably larger attendances, while the racing reached a high standard.

Satisfaction is felt at the rumour hitherto unconfirmed that work is to be begun at once on the extension of the metre gauge line from Kingerban to Kirkuk with a view to its future possible extension from there via Altun Kupri to Mosul. When this line is completed it is proposed to take up the standard gauge line now running from Baghdad to Shergat, which passes through an almost entirely barren country, and can probably never be made to pay. The route via Kirkuk, on the other hand, passes through an extremely fertile country, and will also be in a position to carry the tobacco and other products of the Kurdish districts.

PERSIA.

Teheran, October 18.

Local Industries Exhibition.

Preparations for the National Exhibition of Local Resources and Industries are proceeding apace, and it is hoped to open it next month. It is intended, to commemorate the Exhibition, the first of its kind to be held in the country, to issue a restricted series of postage stamps. These stamps, in keeping with the rest of the exhibits, will be manufactured wholly in Persia; the dies will be made by a Persian artist, and the stamps will be printed locally. They will consist of several values and will depict local scenes, historic monuments like Persepolis, and so on. I have seen the proof of one value, and the result is highly creditable.

These stamps should be of considerable philatelic interest as evidencing a praiseworthy desire on the part of the Persians to produce their own stamps, this being their first serious attempt to do so. The opposite must be said, I am afraid, with regard to a projected new series to commemorate, for want of a better excuse, the 800th anniversary of the alleged birth or death of the "Bard of Nishapur," as evidenced by the surcharge "1123-1923, Omar Khayyam." This issue has, however, not been definitely decided on.

The edict making compulsory the wearing of clothes of local manufacture from native products for all Government employees came into force last month, and should go a long way towards encouraging local industries, and already a much larger output of various cloths is taking place in the weaving centres.

October 23.

Ghavam es Saltaneh.

Ghavam es Saltaneh, whose arrest by the Minister of War a fortnight ago caused such a flutter in political circles, left for Europe the other day. His case was gone into thoroughly, and, though documentary and other evidence conclusively established his guilt and proved his complicity in the intrigues against Sardar Sepah, the latter, on representations from the Shah, with whom the wife of Ghavam es Saltaneh had pleaded on the score of her husband's ill-health, consented to forgo exacting the punishment to which Ghavam es Saltaneh had rendered himself liable, and the latter was released, with the approval of the Cabinet, conditionally on his leaving the country immediately. This is equivalent to banishment.

The Autumn Races.

The autumn race meeting, run by the Military Sports Club, was held last Friday and Sunday on a course prepared on the plain outside the Doshantepeh Gate. The Shah was present, wearing the khaki undress uniform of the new Army and the new service cap, and was attended by his Ministers of State, the Minister of War, under whose auspices the meeting was organised, having a marquee of his own next to the Shah's. His Majesty, who appeared to take much interest in the racing, was much amused at the antics of a cinema operator from Petrograd, who kept on placing himself and his camera in front of the Shah and Sardar Sepah throughout the afternoon, and taking snapshots and cinema films from all angles! His Majesty himself had a pocket Kodak, with which he took snapshots of the camel race. This race, a new feature on a Teheran racecourse, aroused much interest, and the showy Arab riders, dressed in bright blue and red costumes, presented a picturesque spectacle as the camels came past at a fast trot. One usually associates the horse of the desert with slow, deliberate movement, but the speed at which these beasts travelled would not have disgraced a cantering horse.

The British Minister.

The British Minister, Sir Percy Loraine, returned last night from his trip to the oilfields in the south.

October 30.

The New Cabinet.

Mushir ed Dowleh's Cabinet resigned last Monday, as was expected, in view of its inability to accomplish anything. For some time past the local Press has been carrying on a campaign in favour of the Minister of War, appealing to him to take over the reins of government and to put an end to the state of stagnation and inactivity into which the country has been slowly but surely drifting. It came as no surprise, therefore, when the news of Mushir ed Dowleh's resignation was published, to learn that the Shah had sent for Sardar Sepah and invited him to form a Ministry. This the Minister of War was at first reluctant to do, although urged on by the Press and practically all parties, for everyone has seen the sterling nature of the work accomplished by Sardar Sepah. The results of his labours in restoring order and tranquillity throughout the country by ridding it of the numerous robber bands which used to infest the high roads, and by disarming and subduing tribes which had never before come under the sway of the Central Government, as well as in his lending the military to assist the Financial Agents

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in the various provinces to collect taxes and revenues, have been only too evident, and people felt that here at last was a man who could "get a move on," and who was forceful enough and had the strength to carry out what he set out to do. His recent action in arresting Ghavam es Saltaneh and causing his exile, thus nipping in the bud the plot and intrigue against himself, furnished an example of his power and his determination to suppress anyone, irrespective of rank or position, attempting to create disturbance in the country, and strength is a quality which the Persian admires above all else.

Sardar Sepah asked the Shah for time to consider his decision, and it was only on Sunday morning, after three or four days' uncertainty, that it was announced that he had definitely undertaken to form a Cabinet. The Shah, in his edict, announcing Sardar Sepah's appointment, stated that he felt that the country needed a strong and capable leader, and he had therefore entrusted the reins of government to Sardar Sepah, in whom he had the utmost confidence. Yesterday the new Prime Minister presented his Cabinet to His Majesty, constituted as follows :—

Sardar Sepah, Prime Minister and Minister of War (he also remains Commander-in-Chief of the Army).
Adl ul Mulk, Assistant to the Prime Minister.
Zoka ul Mulk, Minister for Foreign Affairs.
Modir ul Mulk, Minister of Finance.
Soleiman Mirza, Minister of Public Instruction.
Moazed es Saltaneh, Minister of Justice.
General Knodayar Khan, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.
Ezz ul Mamalek, Minister of Public Works.
Mirza Ghassem Khan Sor, Acting Minister of the Interior.

Of the new Ministers, only two, besides the Minister of War, have previously held portfolios; the remainder have not before attained to Cabinet rank, although most of them have held responsible Government posts in either the capital or the provinces. They have not been much in the public eye, so it is difficult to prophesy how they will shape, but it is typical of the new Premier to depart from conventon in not choosing his Ministry from the long list of ex-Cabinet Ministers, and the mere fact of his having chosen men so far inexperienced in Ministerial affairs would seem to imply that he has faith in their abilities and feels confident of their whole-hearted co-operation, for a man like Sardar Sepah would hardly retain long in office a colleague who was not a hard worker like himself. Of the two Ministers who have previously been in office, Modir ul Mulk has held the portfolio of Finance, and was Minister for Foreign Affairs in Seyed Zia ed Din's Cabinet after the *coup d'état* of February, 1921, which first brought the Minister of War into power. Zoka ul Mulk was Minister of Finance in the last Cabinet and Minister for Foreign Affairs in a previous one.

Sardar Sepah's Policy.

Sardar Sepah's statement of his policy is characteristically curt and to the point, and has created a very good impression. It has been the custom for Prime Ministers on assuming office to make long statements defining their programme, full of good ambitions and aims, but these have very seldom materialised. The new Premier strikes a new note altogether in his proclamation issued in the Press yesterday. He states that during the last three years he has devoted all his time and attention since taking over command of the Army to increasing and improving the country's forces, and by this means to suppress rebellion and establish security and order. Having achieved this object—and the results, namely, the efficiency of the Army and the security prevailing at present throughout the country, will justify his statement—he now feels at liberty to turn his attention to reforms in other directions, and with this object in view, in spite of his many military occupations, he has yielded to his countrymen's entreaties and accepted the high position offered him by the Shah. He is not going to waste time in issuing a long programme of what he intends to do; he is a believer in deeds rather than words, and will let the results of his Premiership speak for themselves. He finishes by simply stating that he will confine his policy to the two following points: Protecting and safeguarding the country's interests and integrity to the best of his power, and causing its laws to be respected in every way.

Thus the new Prime Minister, who has proved himself to be Persia's "strong man" during the past two years, has now, by dint of his personality and masterful character, risen from a practically unknown colonel of infantry to the highest position in the State, and if he can live up to his reputation and carry through the reforms of which the country is so sorely in need, there is no reason why he should not succeed in putting Persia's house in order, a consummation devoutly to be hoped for. Certain it is that he embarks on his venture with the best wishes of his countrymen and the support of practically all parties. Sardar Sepah is most anxious, it is said, to speed up the elections in the provinces and to reassemble the Mejliss as soon as possible. He himself has been elected for no fewer than four or five constituencies, but as no Cabinet Minister is allowed to be a deputy in Parliament, he cannot take his seat for any of them. He has, however, a strong following, and will undoubtedly be sure of a substantial majority.

The Shah's Departure.

Last week the rumour was current that His Majesty intended to make a journey to Europe, and this was confirmed by a Royal Decree published last Sunday by the Shah, announcing that, as signs of the indisposition which necessitated his journey to Europe two years ago had reappeared, he had found it essential to leave the country again, most reluctantly, to undergo further treatment abroad. He appoints the Valiahd (Crown Prince) Regent during his absence, and states that he will return as soon as the medical treatment is satisfactorily completed.

His Majesty leaves next Sunday via Baghdad.

Anti-British Demonstration.

A large so-called national demonstration in the name of Islam and Persia was held last Sunday outside the Darvazeh Dowlat (Government Gate) to the north of the town to protest against "the tyrannical policy of Great Britain against the world of Islam, and the unjust transgressions of the British Government against the Islamic countries in general, and Mesopotamia in particular." Such was the wording of the programme. Elaborate preparations were made, tents and marquees pitched, and a platform erected, and the ground was marked by black flags. On Sunday afternoon processions formed in the town, and, preceded by black banners, they marched to the meeting place, where violent anti-British speeches were delivered by some of the leading priests, foremost among whom was Khalessizadeh, son of Ayatollah Khalessi, the Persian Shiah priest whose deportation from Irak early this year was the cause of such violent anti-British feeling here. The latter has since come to Persia, and recently arrived in Kum, where the other religious dignitaries from Mesopotamia now are. Several thousand people attended the meeting, but the majority appeared to be quite apathetic, and the angry denunciations of the speakers seemed to produce but little effect on their hearers.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

November 29 (New Style).
November 16 (Old Style).
Rabia II. 19, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Kislev 21, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Moya Campbell is leaving London shortly for Cairo.

The Hon. Mrs. Colin Forbes Adam gave birth to a son on November 19 at Bombay.

Mr. U. Grant Smith, U.S. Minister to Albania, arrived in London last week, and is staying at Claridge's Hotel.

Sir Valentine Chirol left London on November 23 for Tangier in the P. and O. s.s. Moldavia, to spend the winter in Morocco.

The Hon. Mrs. James Best, the wife of the Hon. James W. Best, of the India Forest Service, gave birth to a daughter on November 14.

Miss Megan Lloyd George will join the P. and O. s.s. Moldavia at Marseilles to-morrow to visit the Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading at Delhi.

The Rev. J. S. Stevenson has been appointed Principal of the Theological College, Ahmadabad, in connection with the Irish Presbyterian Church Mission in India.

Lady Mond, who had arranged to sail this week to visit the Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading, has postponed her departure until after the General Election.

M. Constantin Fotitch, First Secretary at the Legation of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, returned to London last week from Vienna after an absence of several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mond are shortly leaving their town residence, 9, Cavendish Square, for France and Egypt for the winter. Correspondence of an urgent nature only will be forwarded.

M. Fathollah Khan Noury Monazam-es-Saltaneh, First Secretary to the Persian Legation, who has been in Persia on leave of absence, returned to London last week, and has now resumed his duties at the Legation.

Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Dowager Countess of Airlie, visited Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson's exhibition of water-colours of Jerusalem last Friday at the Brook Street Galleries, 14, Brook Street, W., and purchased a picture.

Colonel Sir Leslie Wilson, the Governor-designate of Bombay, and Lady Wilson left London last Thursday. They were accompanied by Captain W. W. Benyon, 4th Hussars, and Lieutenant K. E. Previté, Royal Marines, as aides-de-camp, and joined their young daughter and her governess on board.

Colonel C. E. H. Wintle has been appointed Embarkation Commandant at Bombay, with Captain A. W. Hooper, 2nd South Wales Borderers, as assistant. Colonel Wintle was commissioned from the ranks into the Suffolk Regiment, being afterwards transferred to the Indian Army. He served with the 96th Berar Infantry, and was employed in Waziristan.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred at Calgary on October 16 of Mr. William George Bligh, M.Inst.C.E., formerly of the Indian Public Works Department, at the age of 77. A grand-nephew of the fifth Earl of Darnley, he served for nearly thirty years in the Irrigation Department, first in the United Provinces and later in Burma. He had an influential share in the design and construction of important irrigation schemes. His book on "Practical Design of Irrigation Works" is still valued and used.

Reuter's Delhi correspondent announces the deaths of the Nawab Sir Bahram Khan, K.C.V.O., a non-official member of the Council of State, and of the Maharajah Sir Ravaneshwar Prasad Singh, K.C.I.E., Bahadur of Gidhour, Bihar. Both men were staunch Loyalists and rendered help to the Government and the Empire.

Mr. Francis John Monahan, late I.C.S., who died on November 20 at a nursing home, aged 58, was successful in the I.C.S. examination of 1883, and served at first in Bengal. In 1892 he was transferred to Assam as Assistant-Commissioner, becoming later Director of Agriculture and Land Records, and then Secretary to the Assam Government. In 1912 he was transferred to Bengal as Commissioner, and afterwards became chairman of the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta, and served as an additional member of the Governor-General's Legislative Council. In May, 1920, he was appointed a member of the Board of Revenue.

Mr. Robert William Church, C.I.E., who died on November 16 of pneumonia following typhoid fever, aged 41, was well known as an engineer in India. He graduated B.Sc. at Durham University, and was also M.Inst.M.E. From 1908 to 1910 he was in charge of the Bokero-Ramgur Coalfield Survey, and was then appointed mining engineer to the Railway Board of the Government of India.

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1923.

GREECE'S DILEMMA.

As there can be no escape for Greece from her present state of political chaos until the elections have been held, the postponement of these to December 16 can only be regarded as unfortunate. The only valid excuse for the further delay would be a decision on the part of the Government to modify the conditions governing the polling that have been denounced by all the more moderate politicians of the country. Until Greece returns to the path of strict constitutionalism she is unlikely to find a way out of her troubles. The present *régime* is unconstitutional in its origin, and however well meaning it may be in clinging to power, its continued existence, as has been abundantly proved in the last few weeks, serves merely to encourage further attempts at *coups d'état*. The one chance of salvation for the country lies in the formation of a business Government, which will cut athwart party politics and devote its whole attention to the material rehabilitation of Greece. To achieve this the Revolutionary Committee must efface itself, and so long as it is unwilling to take this step its professions of concern for the national welfare are belied. It has tried to induce M. Zaimis, who has the confidence of more people in Greece than any other politician, to take over the reins of government; but he is understood to have refused on the ground that the coming elections are to be held under conditions that must inevitably stultify their usefulness as an index of public opinion. Between now and December 16 it should be possible to modify these conditions in the required direction. If this were done, the present *régime* could still keep a firm hold on the country to prevent any insurrectionary movement, whether in favour of a Republic or merely against its own rule; but it would leave the great bulk of the electorate free to register, if it wished, its approval of M. Zaimis's attempt to bring the country out of its troubles on non-party lines. Free elections under conditions that would give equal weight to every vote in Greece, whether in the towns or in the country districts, would enable the Republican movement to be placed in its proper perspective. Unless a very radical change has come over Greece during the last year, it is difficult to believe that the prominence which a few Republicans have acquired in the capital and in restricted military circles reflects their hold on the people at large.

Any widespread belief among Greeks in the virtue of a Republic will, if it exists, be due entirely to the fatal habit so common in the Balkans of trying to shape national policies in accordance with the supposed wishes or interests of one or more of the Great Powers instead of each country's relying upon itself to work out its own salvation. A considerable stimulus has been given to the Republican movement by the erroneous inference from the attitude of Britain towards the present *régime* in Greece that the Powers are hostile to the monarchy. Very late in the day the British Government has taken steps to correct this impression, but it remains to be seen whether the mischief done can be overtaken. History will probably endorse the action taken by the British Government in withdrawing its representative from Greece as a protest against the execution of M. Gounaris and his fellow-Ministers. That step has been the means of saving other Greek lives; but it has placed Great Britain in the position of being unable, in reply to the Greek Government's invitation, to give any very positive support to the Greek dynasty when it is most needed. Advantage has been taken of the only opportunity offered to make it clear that the establishment of a Republic would be regarded by Britain as an effective barrier to the resumption of normal relations between the two countries, and that financial support for a Republican *régime* from any British source would be exceedingly improbable. Unfortunately, the same publicity is not given to this clear hint as has been given to the insinuation that it is the dynasty which stands in the way of the resumption of the old close ties between Greece and Great Britain. M. Venizelos, moreover, has done his country a signal disservice by lending his name in support of the Republican principle. In elaborating his argument, it may be possible to point out to his own satisfaction that what is theoretically sound may not always be advisable in practice; but the subtle distinction does not reach the rank and file of his followers in Greece, some of whom will have been assured that only in supporting the Republican movement can they remain loyal to their great leader. Hence the identification of the Venizelists with the Republicans. At the last moment, as the result of an appeal—again not altogether unequivocal—from M. Venizelos, an attempt is being made to detach the party from the anti-dynastic agitation, but Venizelism is left a spent force, without any constructive policy and with no leader on the spot.

Great Britain, it cannot be too frequently emphasised, has no other interest in Greece than to see the country united, strong, and progressive. The form of government under which Greece reaches this goal is a matter of indifference to British public opinion; but those Britons who have followed Greek affairs closely in the past may be forgiven for considering themselves to be at least in as good a position to gauge the real interests of Greece as any section of the Greek people itself at a time when fratricidal hatred has been fanned to fever heat. Greece to-day cannot afford to follow M. Venizelos in abstract discussions of the relative fitness of the Greek genius for the Republican principle or constitutional Monarchy. The determining factor for her should be that the introduction of a Republic must inevitably entail an indefinite prolongation of internal strife at a time when her relations with her immediate neighbours are in a state of flux. The change would not be viewed by neighbouring States from any abstract point of view, but solely in the light of its probable effect on Greece's foreign policy. Those States cannot be blamed if they decide that foreign affairs loom larger to-day in the Greek mind than domestic reform. They have seen with what ease and impunity Greek territory can be occupied at the present moment, and they may argue that, if Greece is minded to take drastic action at home in order to gratify her aspirations abroad, this is the time, before she is stronger, to settle outstanding questions in Macedonia, Western Thrace, and the Ægean Archipelago. The new Republic would certainly fare ill financially, for it would have been brought into existence in the face of the warning that no support would be forthcoming from the only European Power in a position to give Greece disinterested help. If the Delphic oracle could be consulted to-day, its voice, we are confident, would repeat the advice given in another connection:—

Μὴ κίνει Καμαρίναν, ἀκίνητός γὰρ ἀμείνων.

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THE REPUBLICAN QUESTION IN GREECE.

(*From Our Athens Correspondent.*)

The Peloponnesus counter-revolution and its inglorious collapse have been directly responsible for the creation in this country of yet another "question"—a question which for the time being has totally eclipsed everything else. The trial of Generals Leonardopoulos and Gargalidis and their comrades is followed with little or no interest, the elections from which but three weeks separate us are entirely forgotten, and the attention of the whole nation is to-day focussed on two persons, King George II. and Major-General Pangalos.

Three weeks ago the bare mention of the word "Republic" caused hilarity; to-day, he who cannot discuss or express an opinion on democracy is pitied for his ignorance!

Three staunch supporters of the 1922 Revolution, General Pangalos, formerly Commander-in-Chief of the Greek Army, Captain Hadjikyriakos, the Naval C.-in-C., and Colonel Kondylis, who until last week commanded the Cretan division at Salonika, form, to-day, the centre of the democratic movement in Greece. All three maintain that the monarchical *régime* is no longer necessary to Greece, and that on the contrary, the establishment of a democracy is essential, for only by this means will the danger of a repetition of dynastic transgressions be averted and the country regain its tranquillity. Until three weeks ago the republican idea in Greece was in its earliest infancy, its only representatives among the political world being a very small group of politicians hitherto belonging to the extreme left of the Liberal (Venizelist) Party, and known as the "Democratic Group." Up to the time of the outbreak of the recent rebel movement the efforts of this group aimed solely at cultivating the republican idea among the people. The "group" itself was very pessimistic as to the ultimate success of its efforts, and fully realised that it stood an extremely meagre chance of securing even two or three seats at the forthcoming elections. But the counter-revolutionary movement turned the tables completely, and the Republicans suddenly discovered that their opportunity had arrived much more quickly than they ever hoped for. This was due to the fact that immediately after the collapse of the movement the three above-mentioned officers openly declared themselves in favour of an immediate proclamation of a Republic. These three superior officers abandoned the reserve which they had hitherto maintained on the question of democracy, in the knowledge that they were supported by the majority of the officers who remained loyal to the Revolutionary *régime* during the insurrection. These officers maintain—and they are probably right—that without the timely and drastic intervention of General Pangalos, Captain Hadjikyriakos, and Colonel Kondylis, the movement would have succeeded. The explanation of their attitude given by the three officers concerned is as follows:—1. The fact that among the officers who participated in the movement were included both officers who had already been dismissed from the service, and officers who had been permitted to remain on the active list after the Revolution of 1922, despite the fact that they continued to remain loyal to the Constantinist *régime*. 2. The fact that the King's entourage, if not the King himself, was implicated in the movement.

A day or two after the suppression of the insurrection, General Pangalos, Captain Hadjikyriakos, and Colonel Kondylis presented themselves to the Chief of the Revolution, Colonel Plastiras, and demanded:—(1) The forcible removal of King George, (2) abolition of the dynasty, and (3) the resignation of the Government, or, at least, of the Prime Minister, Colonel Gonatas. They pointed out that these demands had the full support of the officers of the Army and Navy, and added that, if they were not acceded to, the Revolutionaries would eventually find themselves without any supporters. As was only natural, these demands, which were presented in a form more or less resembling an ultimatum, greatly alarmed not only the general public, but the Revolutionaries themselves, who promptly convened a National Conference to discuss the situation. This Conference was attended by the members of the Cabinet, by all the general officers of the Athens garrison, and by prominent representatives of all the political parties, with the exception of the Metaxists. M. Zaimis, being away from Athens, was not present, while the leader of the Democratic group, M. Papanastasiou, and the three extremist democratic leaders, General Pangalos, Captain Hadjikyriakos and Colonel Kondylis, did not arrive until after the politicians had departed. The Conference, which lasted for over three hours, ended in a big victory for the Government and the Revolutionaries, since everyone present, with the exception of one or two Republicans, agreed with the Government's point of view, namely, that this was no time for constitutional changes. This view was even more strengthened by the declarations of the British, French, Yugoslav, and Roumanian diplomatic representatives, who, on being approached on the subject by the Greek Government, made it perfectly clear that their Governments would view the removal of the King and the establishment of a Republic with much disfavour. M. Venizelos's telegram deprecating any rash step and pointing out that the question should be decided by the people alone, placed another trump card in the hands of the Government. But the decision of the National Conference did not dishearten in any way the Democratic leaders, who promptly suggested that the question be decided by a plebiscite before the elections, and thus give an opportunity to the people themselves to express their opinion in the matter. This suggestion was also rejected, but at the same time, fearing a *coup d'état*, Colonel Plastiras summoned to Athens Generals Manettas and Othonaios, commanding the Patras and Salonika Army Corps respectively, in order to have their views on the matter, but chiefly to ascertain to what extent they could be relied upon to support the Government in the event of an attempt by General Pangalos and his colleagues to enforce their dictatorial plans. Without entirely rejecting Pangalos's proposed pre-electoral plebiscite, the two Corps Commanders informed Colonel Plastiras that only when they became quite convinced that such an action would prejudice the interests of the country abroad would they agree with the Government's views: General Othonaios left immediately for Paris in order to obtain M. Venizelos's views on the matter, and at the same time to ascertain, on behalf of a group of extremist officers, whether the telegram received from him during the Conference was genuine, while General Manettas was appointed Minister of War.

Meanwhile, General Pangalos and his supporters organised a mass meeting, which passed a vote to the effect that the Republicans would continue their struggle until their efforts were crowned with success. To judge by the number of people who attended this meeting, the democratic idea in Greece is still in its early infancy. The demonstrators hardly exceeded five thousand, many of whom were refugees, and even its organisers must have realised that it was a complete failure. The meeting was unfortunately marked by regrettable

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incidents which General Pangalos was the first to condemn. In Constitution Square, for instance, a few hotheads entered the big Café Zacharatos and smashed two huge pictures of King George I., the present King's grandfather, and of Queen Olga, his grandmother, while a few minutes later another group compelled the proprietor of the Royal Hotel, in Stadium Street, to remove the hotel's signboard, at the same time informing him that he would henceforth call his establishment "Democratic Hotel." These incidents undoubtedly damaged the Republican cause, and resulted in alienating the sympathies of many of its would-be supporters.

The situation to-day could be summed up as follows: The Revolutionaries and the Government are of the opinion that the question of a constitutional change should not be discussed until after the elections, and are firmly convinced that M. Venizelos's view on the subject, which will be communicated to them by General Othonaios, who is expected here from Paris, will entirely coincide with their own. On the other hand, General Pangalos and his colleagues are continuing their campaign through the Press, and by organising mass meetings in various provincial towns. They publicly accuse the King of complicity in the movement, and declare most emphatically that they will attain their object one way or another. The politicians forming the Republican Group are showing much more moderation than their military allies. In fact, they have repeatedly expressed themselves against any violent overthrow of the dynasty. The Liberals, acting in conformity with the instructions of their absent leader, are opposed to any change at present, and have even gone so far as to disavow the Democratic Party, which really sprang from their ranks.

And the people? What have they to say? What is their opinion on a matter which concerns them more than anybody else? The truth is that the Greek people, literally "fed up" with everything and everybody, play the part of an indifferent and disinterested spectator in all these discussions and activities. In a leading article, which fully illustrates the real psychological state of the Greek people, the *Hestia* says: "The Greek people have but one desire: internal tranquillity—that tranquillity which they lost eight years ago and which, when found again, will allow them to heal their many wounds, reconstruct their ruins, and work in peace. The people are tired of movements, of plots, of trials, of martial laws and censorships. The Greek people desire tranquillity. They desire more than ever an honest, strong, and just administration which could guarantee that they will not wake up next morning and face another revolution."

M. D. Ziracopoulo, Vice-Consul for Greece in Alexandria, has been appointed attaché to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Athens. M. Politis has been appointed his successor.

A Constantinople message states that the men employed on the Oriental Railways have gone on strike owing to the failure to reach a settlement of their demands, which include one for a 30 per cent. increase in wages. The strikers number one thousand.

In token of their gratitude to the author of the Balfour Declaration, the Zionist Organisation of America recently resolved to present to Lord Balfour a statuette of himself. The statuette, which has been executed by Mr. Rosenthal, of Baltimore, is in platinum on a silver pedestal, bearing inscriptions in English and Hebrew recording the terms of the Declaration and the sentiments of American Zionists towards its author. Acting on behalf of the American Zionists, Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, who led a deputation consisting of Dr. M. D. Eder, Mr. Joseph Cowen, Mr. Paul Goodman, and Mr. Abraham Shapiro (representing the Jewish colonists in Palestine), made the presentation to Lord Balfour at his residence on November 20.

HOSPITALS IN CYPRUS.

A correspondent writes:—In any description of the above it is impossible not to reveal a tale of quiet devotion to duty undertaken solely from love of the work, and carried out with no expectation of or desire for material reward of any kind.

Thirty years ago there was no place in Kyrenia where the sick could be nursed: the district medical officer in case of accidents attended patients in their own homes, but people from the villages were hard put to it when they fell ill. The public, however, came to the rescue, and money was raised in England, a site was acquired, and a hospital was built with accommodation for some 40 patients. Two English ladies—trained nurses—offered their services, came out, and took charge. They are still at their post. The annual subscriptions were sufficient for many years to keep the pot boiling, and the work was carried on without more expenses to Government than the salary of the medical officer, of the upkeep of the dispensary and the medicine. This burden, however, fell on the Government before the hospital came into existence.

It is the work in the wards of the hospital that attracts attention. From the day that the hospital opened its doors, these two ladies have never ceased in their efforts to alleviate pain and restore to health those who sought shelter within it. From far-away villages the peasants came and returned; the nurses were their friends—not officials paid to attend to their bodily infirmities. In this way the ties binding them to one another became strong and unbreakable. When these English nurses happened to be present at a village fair or were passing through a hamlet numbers would run out to greet them and inquire after their welfare. It is the personal touch that has created this widespread feeling of attachment.

Each district in the island has a hospital very much under Government control, each with a trained staff of skilled officials, subject, of course, to frequent changes, and therefore unable to create the permanent ties which exist at Kyrenia. One cannot but regret the inevitable elimination of the personal element—forty years ago in every department of the Island Government it was strong; centralisation has almost strangled it; here and there it survives, and probably is more in evidence at the present moment at Kyrenia than anywhere else.

So long as these two ladies remain at their posts the chain will be still further strengthened, but when the burden becomes too heavy, and has to be laid down, then a link will break which cannot be forged anew, and a tremendous influence for good will be lost.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

It is stated from Baghdad that Jaafar Pasha el Askari, who was Minister for Defence in the late Administration, is forming a new Cabinet.

A naturalisation treaty between the United States and Bulgaria has been signed. This is the first treaty made between the two countries.

A message from Delhi states that the ex-Amir of Afghanistan, Sardar Muhammad Yakub Khan, died at Dehra Dun last Thursday, at the age of 74.

According to a *Morning Post* telegram from Belgrade, the Macedonian Committee has decided to recall Macedonian troops from the South Serbian border.

M. Milorad Raitchevith, a correspondent of the Belgrade newspaper *Balkan*, who is walking through Africa, arrived at Johannesburg on November 12, having travelled through Egypt, the Congo, and Rhodesia.

Colonel William Edward Webb, M.D., R.A.M.C., who died at Southampton on November 11, aged 71, served with the Egyptian Expedition of 1882, being present at Tel-el-Kebir, and also with the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5.

Dr. Weizmann, President of the Zionist Organisation, left England for America on November 24. He will attend the conference of the American "Keren Hayesod" (Palestine Foundation Fund) in New York on December 9.

The Secretary of State for India has approved the grant of vacant Indian Good Service Pensions to the following officers:—Lieutenant-General Sir S. H. Climo, Indian Army (retired), and Lieutenant-Colonel W. A. Simmonds, Indian Medical Service (retired).

At a congregation held at Cambridge University last Friday, the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. E. C. Pearce) presiding, the honorary degree of Litt.D. was conferred on Sir Arthur Evans, Extraordinary Professor of Prehistoric Archæology in the University of Oxford.

Professor R. A. S. Macalister is investigating the site of the Millo, the Jebusite stronghold to the south of the Temple area in Jerusalem between the Tyropœon Valley, and that of Jehoshaphat, on behalf of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and the *Daily Telegraph* reports that he has discovered the Jebusite north wall with a tower.

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Near East Bookshelf.

EAST AND WEST IN TWO ANCIENT COUNTRIES.

"PALESTINE AND MOROCCO." By Sir Martin Conway, M.P. (London: Edward Arnold and Co. 6s. net.)
"A VISION OF MOROCCO." By V. C. Scott O'Connor. (London: Thornton Butterworth, Ltd. 25s. net.)

Sir Martin Conway is an ardent Zionist. He tries to give a fair hearing to the other side, but he regards the pledges given to the Jews by the Balfour Declaration as sacrosanct, whilst he lightly dismisses the earlier promises by which we induced the Arabs to rise against the Turks and come into the War on our side. "Nothing," he declares, "can alter the binding character of the Balfour Declaration; no British Government can neglect or reverse it." With the Mandate alone it is, he thinks, possible to tinker, and that only with great difficulty, though one might remind him that to get the Mandate British Ministers found no difficulty at all in tinkering, and more than tinkering, with the Covenant of the League of Nations, which laid it down that the wishes of the peoples concerned must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory Power. Some misgivings, however, Sir Martin cannot wholly suppress as to the permanence of Jewish enthusiasm itself, outside Palestine, for Zionism. In fact, he admits that even in the Jewish colonies in Palestine enthusiasm is apt to wane as they grow older, and that, as the new Jewish emigrants must for a time depend upon the charity of their race in other lands to supply the deficiency of their earnings, the need for the world-wide collection of money is essential to maintain their enthusiasm at the proper temperature. He ends, indeed, on a somewhat subdued note when he writes: "If the faith of Jewry holds out long enough and supplies are renewed without break, Zionism can succeed." But if these conditions are not fulfilled and Zionism does not succeed, what is to become of the Balfour Declaration? As to this, Sir Martin, perhaps wisely from his point of view, says nothing.

It is easier and far pleasanter to follow Sir Martin when he takes us with him on some of his rambles round Jerusalem or discourses with rare knowledge and delight on the Dome of the Rock and the incomparable Mosque of Omar. Still more gladly do we follow him in his wanderings through Morocco, whither he takes us in the same volume. There he is entirely free from his Zionist obsession, and gives full vent to his love of the East, of the spaciousness of its landscapes, of the glory of its sunshine, of the manifold picturesqueness of its ancient cities. One of his most interesting chapters is that in which he pays a handsome tribute—all the more convincing in that it comes from an expert—to the great French achievement in the happy solution they have found for the architectural problem with which every European nation responsible for the development of an Oriental country is necessarily faced.

It has to build. Government offices, cantonments, residences, and business premises will all be required for the European element. They cannot be built in the local style. That was developed by different needs, and is adapted to a different social system from the European. The incomers must either bring their style with them or invent a new style on the spot to meet their new requirements. . . . The French in Morocco have been called upon to build and build extensively, not alone in order to house a new administration, but to accommodate a considerable influx of European men of business and others engaged in professions as well as a large military force. . . . Coming suddenly into a new country, almost within hail of their own shores, they have had to build and to build all at once not only Governorates, Residencies, and administrative offices of all kinds, but ports and warehouses, railway stations, post offices, banks, streets of shops, hotels and houses, large and and small, both in cities and in the country. Clearly such a sudden demand for building, not at one centre only, but all over a large country, is not a common occurrence. The Romans when they conquered and settled in Britain had to deal with a like demand. Silchester shows how they dealt with it in towns, and our Roman British villas in the country.

The instinct of the new comer is to erect for himself in his new surroundings just such a home as he was accustomed to in the land of his upbringing; but where climate, building materials, and local technical conditions are all different it is evident that the mere transplantation of a foreign architectural style will not be a success. Neither, however, can the new comer conveniently adopt the native style of his new home. The new comer brings with him a civilisation, a social system, and a mode of life of his own. A monogamous household requires different accommodation from that evolved by polygamous families. A European Court of Justice cannot conveniently function in such a chamber as sufficed for the Cadi. Where in an Oriental town can you find ready to hand the kind of building suitable for the offices of a line of steamboats? Oriental commerce housed itself in bazaars and fonduks altogether unadapted either to the wholesale or the retail trade of the West. The French in Morocco had to provide for all these new needs with structures adapted both to the habits of their people and to the climate of the new country.

Sir Martin Conway has nothing but praise for the way in which the French have gone to work in this respect, and he explains, as far as words can explain, the lines on which they have achieved their great success. It is evidently very largely due to the creation of *Comité des Beaux Arts* which has inspired and controlled the planning of modern European quarters and the erection of modern European buildings, public and private, throughout the Protectorate. What has thus been accomplished is "no compromise or mixture of divergent elements, but essentially integral, and a vital and logical growth." Sir Martin advises British architects who are called up to build in hot countries to pay a visit of study to Morocco. "Had the modern buildings in Egypt and in Palestine been thus designed Cairo would still have remained a beautiful city, and Jerusalem would not have been so disgracefully disfigured." Those of us who have seen Cairo and Jerusalem—and, we might add, the innumerable monuments of P.W.D. vulgarity in India—will cordially agree.

Mr. Scott O'Connor's "Vision of Morocco" takes us much further afield. With him we plunge into many of the more remote byways of Moroccan travel, and he brings us into contact with the life of some of the great Moroccan chiefs who still walk in the ancient ways. Many of our readers doubtless remember his enthusiastic picture of Burma and the Burmese life in "The Silken East." Perhaps he is apt to make the East altogether too "silken." He is a brilliant word painter, and in this volume, too, his pen luxuriates, not altogether inappropriately, in the most florid arabesques. His vision begins before he starts for Morocco; "Camels swaying over trackless sands; the earth a circle, the sun its only arbiter; immensity enshrouds me; Africa blazing in black and gold; Pillars of Hercules that rise up into the sky, whispering the myths and visions of a bygone age." All that he sees in Morocco is the fulfilment of that vision. His rare excursions into the present political situation are

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practical and to the point, but he is more at home in the garden palaces and pavilions of Fez and Marrakesh and in the unexplored recesses of the Atlas mountains. He has a greater insight into the mystic passion of the Aissaoua or into the stately reserve of the old-world lord of the Atlas, Glaoui, whom the French call "Le Panthère noir." He lingers lovingly upon the legends of dead saints, and he can tell us also how, in our own days, a half-witted Moroccan labourer can come to acquire the sanctity of a messenger of God. If Mr. O'Connor is rather partial to vivid colours and strong perfumes, he knows how to use them with great effect, and his book can be warmly commended to those who want to have a vision of Morocco whether at close quarters or from afar. It is, we suppose, too much to expect from the writer of a "Vision" that he may provide a more satisfying index in his next edition?

Valentine Chirol.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Book of Religion and Empire." By Ali Tabari. Arabic Text Edited by A. Mingana, D.D. (Manchester: John Rylands Library. 5s. net.).

"The Shirkûtu of Babylonian Deities." By Raymond Philip Dougherty, Ph.D. (London: Humphrey Milford, for the Yale University Press, New Haven. 25s. net.).

"Archives from Erech, Time of Nebuchadrezzar and Nabonidus." By Raymond Philip Dougherty, Ph.D. (London: Humphrey Milford, for Yale University Press. 21s. net.).

"By Tigris and Euphrates." By E. S. Stevens. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 18s. net.)

"The Foreign Policy of the Labour Party." By J. Ramsay Macdonald, M.P. (London: Cecil Palmer. 1s. net.)

"Kareen." By J. Mason Smith. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Race Problems in the New Africa." By the Rev. W. C. Willoughby, F.R.A.I., F.R.G.S. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 15s. net.)

THE CITROEN EXPEDITION.

Under the auspices of the Royal National Life-Boat Institution, the film of the Citroën expedition crossing the Sahara was last week, at the Victoria Palace, shown for the first time in this country. M. André Citroën lent the film to the Institution, and organised the whole performance, at which the Queen, accompanied by the Princess Royal and the Princess Louise Duchess of Argyll, was present. M. Citroën himself and the leaders of the expedition, MM. Haardt and Audouin-Dubreuil, were also present.

In itself the expedition was a remarkable achievement, for previously the Sahara had been crossed only by caravans. The film shows the journey of the five cars, of "caterpillar" type, ploughing through sand, ascending hills, and negotiating valleys, from Touggourt, in Algeria, to Timbuctoo. It is an extraordinarily fine piece of cinema-photography. You get very vividly the sense of the desolate waste, of the oases, of the *ksours*, and of the other features of native life. Glimpses of native quarters and customs are interestingly revealed; and some of the photos of lines of camels and the movement of Touareg horsemen are more intimately impressed than could be achieved by any prose. We follow these pioneers through Ouargla, on to Inifel, and to In Salah, where a magnificent welcome was accorded them; thence to the Hoggar *massif*, through the dreaded "Land of Thirst," to Bourem, near which they gratefully reached the waters of "the French Nile," the Niger, and finally to Timbuctoo. The 2,000 miles had been covered in twenty-two days. The party returned, by the same route, to Touggourt, in March of this year.

This film, quite apart from the mechanical interest of it, is of very definite educative value. Throughout one is made to feel the high mission—the colonising mission of France—which inspired the party, and it was good to find them rendering homage to the memory of pioneer Frenchmen killed in the service of colonial France in these parts.

One wonders whether there is now any desert not capable of being crossed by automobile. Already we read of an intended attack on the Libyan desert by the Citroën car; the Syrian desert is already passable to the ordinary motor-car; is it possible that M. Citroën may turn his genius to the conquest of the Arabian desert?

The Shah of Persia left Beyrout on November 20 for Marseilles on board the Messageries steamship Lotus. A salute of 101 guns was fired.

TURKEY: 1918-1923.

Before the Central Asian Society on November 22 Colonel D. Shuttleworth lectured on "Turkey from the Armistice to the Peace." In October, 1918, he said, the Turks had only one efficient force—the Ninth Caucasian Army. All the tales as to the number of their fighting troops and their *moral* were false. But this one army had never tasted defeat, and from it a good deal of trouble was to come. At first the Allied forces were under the command of General Franchet d'Esperey, who wished to restrict the French to the European side and the British to the Asiatic side of Turkey respectively. As a matter of fact, this arrangement was not, until the withdrawal of French troops from Chanak, ever in practice carried out. Sir George Milne was in command of the British forces, and maintained them at a high state of efficiency. "Neutral zones" were established by the Allies, and for a time things were satisfactory. But later two things created an impossible situation: the occupation of, and subsequent withdrawal from, Cilicia by the French, and the granting to the Greeks of permission to land at Smyrna and advance inland. There arose the Nationalist movement, which centred around Mustapha Kemal, and has made history.

The story of the Greek advance upon Angora and of its failure was briefly told, but for the most part the lecturer confined himself to events of which he had personal knowledge—the defence and the military plans of the British. More than once it was touch and go: in the case of Chanak but an hour and three-quarters separated the signing by General Harington of the Convention of Mudania and the intended ultimatum by General Marden to the Turks. Colonel Shuttleworth gave reasons, chiefly naval, for the selection of Chanak as a place to be held; and he stated that, in view of the admirable co-operation which existed between the Army, the Royl Navy, and the Royal Air Force, the issue (the pushing of the British into the sea) was not so certain as some critics had supposed. Finally, he said, the prestige of the British was almost completely re-established in these parts of the world: it was at least as high as that of any of our Allies. But, he concluded, "make no mistake about this. We are not liked: we are extremely disliked."

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

France and Oil.

Much comment has been aroused during the past year by the various loans made by France to other countries for the purchase of military material. The latest French deal on the tapis, to which our Bucharest Correspondent refers this week, is of a different order. For obvious reasons it is in our Ally's interest to safeguard herself as much as possible as regards the supply of oil, and negotiations have been begun for the advance to Roumania of 800,000,000 francs on account of deliveries of petroleum products belonging to that State over a period of ten to twelve years. The advantage of the proposition from the point of view of both parties is obvious. France obtains the oil she requires, while Roumania has placed at her disposal the funds of which she is greatly in need. One result of the deal, if it goes through, will be immensely to strengthen France's position in the Roumanian oilfields. The San Remo agreement provided for the equal participation by France and this country in oil concessions obtained in Roumania, and at first sight this deal would appear to be outside this understanding. Another aspect of the negotiations is worth noting. A British group have for a considerable time been in negotiation with Roumania over a deal unconnected with the oilfields. It would appear that these negotiations are still in the air, the obstacle being the question of an immediate money payment. France takes a different line, and is prepared to give an advance at once, and therefore her negotiations go smoothly. Our Ally is certainly instructing us in the method of trade development.

The Roumanian Industry.

That the Roumanian oil industry has not been making anything like the progress it should is sufficiently obvious. It is equally nothing to be surprised at in view of the way in which it has been hampered by unwise restrictions. Our Bucharest Correspondent gives particulars of a petition made by the companies to the Minister of Industry and Commerce, pointing out that it is impossible to increase production or to make any progress unless the industry has "freedom for its development and the policy of fixing maximum prices is abandoned." The facts adduced in support of this contention seems unanswerable. It is pointed out, for one thing, that the companies have to import the greater part of their material, which means that the cost to them is considerably greater than the price in the country of origin, and in view of the exchange the effect scarcely needs to be emphasised. They have, further, heavy export taxes to pay, while a part of the production is disposed of at "much lower figures than those ruling on the world market." A further protest has been made against a regulation putting an end to the exemption from import taxes of material required for the industry. As Roumania has an inadequate supply of the material herself, the very fact of the institution of the new regulation suggests that even now the needs of the industry are very imperfectly understood.

Turkish Tobacco.

The present interesting position of the Turkish tobacco trade in this country is discussed by Mr. T. Constantinides in an article on page 565. The trade, he states, is improving, owing to the effect of the Greek tax, which has brought the export of tobacco to an end, and to the revival of Turkish cigarette smoking. He gives various reasons for this revival, and expresses the opinion that, "provided the right kinds of leaf are obtainable from the Near East in sufficient quantities, and reasonable enough in price, there appears to be no reason why the Turkish cigarette should not shortly enjoy a popularity hitherto unknown in this country." After all, apart from the effect of its relative cheapness, the addiction to Virginian tobacco is largely a matter of an acquired taste, and, provided those in the trade go the right way about it, it is quite conceivable that a Turkish vogue may replace the present Virginian popularity. If so, it will be all to the good from the national point of view, as it will mean decreased purchases in America.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

A very satisfactory report is forthcoming from the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company for the year ended March 31. The gross receipts rose from Rs. 671.25 lakhs to Rs. 751.85 lakhs, and while there was also an increase in working expenses, it was only from Rs. 469.06 lakhs to Rs. 481.77 lakhs, and the net revenue rose from Rs. 202.19 lakhs to Rs. 270.08 lakhs. The company's share of the surplus profits amounted to £168,328, the total receipts being £194,775, as compared with £126,223. The proposed final distribution is $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest, making $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for the year, the same as for the previous period.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, November 16.

A Loan from France.

During the past week newspaper reports to the effect that a substantial loan in French francs is being negotiated in Paris have caused considerable interest. It would appear, however, that it is not a question of a loan in the ordinary sense of the word, but of an advance on account of deliveries of petroleum products belonging to the State. (Some of the State oil lands are leased out to various exploitation companies and the State receives yearly a certain percentage of the production.) Negotiations are still in progress, and apparently it is not yet definitely settled what the amount of the advance will be, but the *Argus* of the 12th instant publishes a telegram from its Paris correspondent which professes to give the main conditions upon which the negotiations are based. It runs as follows :—

The total sum will be 800 million French francs. Payment is to be made immediately in currency, bills, etc., according to the arrangement. Roumania undertakes to allocate all the petroleum received from the State oil lands during 10 to 12 years. The contract price of the petroleum shall be fixed in French francs, a maximum and minimum rate of exchange for the leu in regard to the franc being established. Deliveries of the petroleum shall be so arranged that they shall be completed by the expiration of the term of the convention. Deliveries shall be divided according to the means of transport employed into yearly quotas which shall be clearly fixed from the beginning. Regarding the fixing of the contract price, the parity of the exchange, and the other points not yet settled, further information is at present awaited from the Roumanian Government, which, it is reported, intends to send a specialist for this purpose with powers to conclude the agreement in the name of the Roumanian State.

The Currency.

Nothing definite has yet been published regarding the proposed further currency issue, which was again pressed for at a recent meeting of the Association of Roumanian Banks.

According to the *Argus* the order for the 200 millions of metal money in one leu and two lei pieces, for which tenders were recently invited, has been given to the Société Française de Monnayage of Paris as their offer was the lowest received and they have promised delivery within ten months. According to an earlier report the King's Norton Metal Company, of Birmingham, was next on the list, and the same firm narrowly missed getting the first part of this order, which was given to a Belgian firm last month.

Improvement in Exchange.

The leu has risen during the past week to about 850 to the £1, probably because no debts are being paid to England, very little is being imported from the United Kingdom, and owing to the mild autumn weather large quantities of grain are still being exported from the Danube ports.

The Petroleum Industry.

In view of the many difficulties of the present situation the oil companies have recently sent another petition to the Minister of Industry and Commerce representing to him the impossibility of increasing production or making any progress in the industry unless it has freedom for its development and the policy of fixing maximum prices is abandoned. To show that such freedom is necessary to enable the companies to compete with other producers on the world market they state that 70 per cent. of their expenses for material has to be paid for imported goods, i.e., at gold rates, and owing to transport and customs charges, etc., they cost them more than the price in the country of origin. For wood, also, purchased in this country, they have to pay prices which are constantly approaching more nearly to the world price level as there is no fixed price for timber in this country and large quantities are now being exported. Added to these disadvantages they have heavy export taxes to pay, and owing to the internal fixed prices 7 per cent. of their products are sold at much lower figures than those ruling on the world market. In view of these considerations they state that the only way to overcome the present crisis and create a healthy atmosphere for the industry is "to establish a stable regime with the possibility of acquiring lands for exploitation, liberty of commerce in petroleum products, and the liberation of the petroleum industry from all the obstacles which hinder its activities."

A further protest was addressed to the Minister of Industry on the same date against the new regulation that the material required for boring operations and other requirements of the petroleum industry should no longer be exempted from import taxes, as they had been hitherto in order to assist the industry to replenish its plant destroyed during the war. The new law was apparently passed at the instigation of the Roumanian metallurgical industries, who themselves asserted that they were able to supply all the material required. The petroleum companies demand that at least they should be represented upon a committee which should have power to decide what material really could be supplied by the home industries.

NEW MAIL SERVICE TO BAGHDAD.

The Postmaster-General announces that a weekly mail service by motor transport has been established between Haifa (Palestine) and Baghdad. This service will connect with the Indian mail which leaves London every Thursday via Marseilles and Port Said, and is now available for the conveyance of all classes of postal packets, except parcels, for Irak and the Persian Gulf. Mails leaving London on Thursday night will reach Port Said on Wednesday, Haifa on Thursday, and Baghdad on Saturday night. The time of transit from London to Baghdad will thus be about nine days, as compared with 24 days by the ordinary route via Bombay. This weekly service is in addition to the fortnightly Air Mail service. Packets intended for conveyance by the new route must be marked by the senders, "By overland mail Haifa-Baghdad," and prepaid with a special fee of 3d. per ounce in addition to the ordinary postage. There is no insurance system, but registration is admitted under the ordinary conditions. The first mail by the new route was dispatched from London on November 22.

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THE TURKISH TOBACCO TRADE

By T. Constantinides.

So far as this country is concerned the Turkish tobacco trade is better than it has been for some considerable time. There are two reasons which account for this: first, the almost complete cessation of imports from Greece due to the Greek Government's export tax of 20 per cent., and, secondly, a pronounced revival of interest in the Turkish variety of cigarette amongst the English smoking public.

As a result of the former, many old parcels of leaf which had lain dormant and seemingly without a ghost of a chance of early disposal have recently found ready buyers—the buyers consisting in many cases of firms holding substantial stocks of the same grades in Greece, but the removal of which, while liable to the 20 per cent. export tax, would show a higher cost on arrival than the price at which the same thing can be bought in the market here. In fact, so many of these old stocks have been bought up that London merchants have been bringing into the market similarly surplus, if not obsolete, stocks from the Continent of which, fortunately, there appears to be no imminent scarcity.

The main reason for the revival of interest in the Turkish cigarette amongst English smokers is that several firms of manufacturers have been testing to what extent the Englishman's preference for a Virginia cigarette is a matter of taste, and how far a matter of price; and the launching of new brands of Turkish cigarettes at prices approximating to those of the more popular Virginia brands has proved beyond doubt that the Turkish cigarette, in spite of war-time deterioration, has a reputation for superiority of quality which continues to make an irresistible appeal to the discriminating smoker.

There is no doubt that the ever-increasing use of Colonial tobacco in Virginia cigarettes and pipe mixtures, owing to its present unavoidable inferiority of quality, and the manufacturers' refusal generally to lower prices, has tended to make the smoker more critical of what he is getting for his money. There appears also to be a growing disposition to put as little money as possible into America's pocket over and above what is absolutely necessary; and the possibility of obtaining a good smokeable Turkish cigarette at little or no higher price than a Virginian commends itself to the smoker who feels this way about it.

Providing that in the near future the right kinds of leaf are obtainable from the Near East in sufficient quantity and reasonable enough in price and quality, there appears to no reason why the Turkish cigarette should not shortly enjoy a popularity hitherto unknown in this country. For, although the Turkish cigarette industry of twenty years or so ago resolutely refused to adapt itself to the requirements of mass-production, and had, perforce, to remain contented with only a limited high-class trade, the bulk of London manufacturers are beginning to realise that it is a case of catering now on a basis of price suited to a very economically-minded public or being left high and dry.

It is well for Greece, with a crop this year equal to twice if not three times the size of the biggest ever yet produced, and for Bulgaria, with a crop estimated at no less than 40,000,000 kilos, that this prospect of a substantially increased foreign market is opened up, because it remains to be seen what is behind America's action in paying inflated prices during the past two or three years. It is an old trick to adopt a policy of this description with the object of encouraging bumper crops such as have now been produced, so as to be able to take advantage of the abundance of supplies to depress prices and average out. In this way she relieves herself of any anxiety that the Near East will fail to keep abreast of her demands and practically at her own price in the long run.

From all accounts the Greek Ministry of National Economy is already anxious regarding the successful marketing of the present tobacco crop, and measures are being considered for the protection of the tobacco trade against a crisis such as happened in the market for currants during the past season; and by no means the least effective of such measures must be the fostering of substantially increased foreign markets.

For the reasons stated London must be considered as such a market, but there must be no mistaking the existing condition of things. For while everything points to the possibility of building up the Turkish cigarette industry here on a scale hitherto untouched, the trade not only has to cater for an already definitely economically-minded public, but also to compete in the near future with a possibly increased Preference-duty on Colonial tobaccos of two shillings per pound.

With a public favourably disposed to the Turkish variety of cigarette, however, and with the manufacturers of to-day adapting their former prejudices and methods of manufacture to the requirements of mass-production, it remains only for the traders in the Near East to see that London is adequately fed with the right types and quantities of leaf, and at strictly competitive prices, for them to obtain the substantially increased foreign markets which alone can help to avert the present threatened crisis.

NEW COMPANY.

Levant Company (Bulgaria).

The Levant Company (Bulgaria), Ltd., has been registered as a private company, with a nominal capital of £10,000. in £1 shares. The objects are to acquire the whole or any part of the business, property, assets, and liabilities of the Levant Company, Ltd., in Bulgaria, and to carry on the business of brokers, merchants, traders, and commission agents, exporters, and importers in Bulgaria and elsewhere, etc. The registered office is at 14, Austin Friars, E.C.2.

It is reported that Herr Stinnes is endeavouring to obtain a concession for the erection of blast furnaces at Priedor, in Yugoslavia.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Activity in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended Novembe 16, state:— Since our last report the market has been very active. It is the first week for many months now that our market has fluctuated on its own initiative for both Sakels. and Ashmouni. A week ago with January New York at 33.67c. January Sakel. closed here at $39.75 and December Ashmouni at $37.80, whereas to-day with January New York at 33.50c. January Sakel closed at $42.00, and December at $38.90. The reasons of the above widening, and of the firmness of our market, are the further appreciation of the dollar, and the very active demand from abroad for our cottons, due to the very reasonable levels of prices at which they recently stood in comparison to their intrinsic value, and to the prices of the competing qualities of Americans. As a proof of the strength of the local position, we may say that at the second November tender 11.750 krs. dockets were issued, and were easily received, and instead of having the effect of pushing down the price of the near position, as dockets usually do, the contrary was the result, and at one time November and January stood at par. The demand from abroad has embraced all qualities, and especially Sakel., the consequence being a widening of the difference with Ashmouni. We consider the existing difference still small, and we expect that it will widen substantially as the season advances, and as this year's reduced supplies of Sakel. are realised. Arrivals from up-country are very heavy, but offering on the spot market is rather limited, and almost no hedges at all have been put out in futures. The continued rise, and the brighter prospects of trade in general have encouraged the growers and the interior merchants, and there is at present no anxiety on their part to sell. The political situation on the Continent is certainly not very good; however, this apparently does not prevent trade conditions improving. A feature worth noting is that since September 1 Egypt has exported to the Continent 92,000 B/s, against only 59,000 B/s for the corresponding period last year. The week's receipts amount to 439,141 krs., against exports 323,468 krs.; the stock stands at 1,957,359 krs.

Spot.—We have had another week of active markets at Minet el Bassal, and sales amount to about 36,500 bales of which we estimate 23,000 B/s Sakel. 13,100 B/s Uppers, 150 B/s Brown and Pilion, and 250 B/s White Both arrivals and exports are large, but the stock shows a substantial increase over last week, and is now nearly two million kantars.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, but, as last week, the demand for cotton below F.G.F. has predominated. Prices of spot against contracts are generally appreciably dearer, and in spite of the rise in contracts holders are not very ready sellers.

Uppers.—All grades have changed hands, with a continued good demand for the medium grades. Spot prices are generally somewhat dearer, except for good and better, which are without much change.

Brown and Pilion.—A moderate business has been done mainly in the medium qualities at about last week's rates.

White.—A fair business has been done principally in the medium grades. Spot prices against contracts are appreciably dearer than last week.

Crop 1923.—The movement of the crop in the interior continues to be very intense, and the majority of the ginning factories are working day and night; this explains the recent heavy arrivals from the interior.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Further Advance in Prices.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 14:—

Egyptian Spot.—The slight reaction which we witnessed last week was of short duration, and since our last circular prices have again advanced with startling rapidity. Although, in the long run, present prices may prove to be more than justified by the actual scarcity of the raw material, the impression left after the past seven days is that, for the time being, the upward movement has been overdone, a situation by no means unknown to the trade when once outside speculation on a large scale has "come in." The burst of speculation, which has been the chief cause of this last big rise (over 3½d. per lb. in a single week), has also been responsible for the marked widening which has occurred between our market and its American neighbour. Egyptian cotton at 1¼d. over American cotton was considered relatively very cheap, and the interest of the trade as a whole was gradually but surely being attracted to it. This was only a week ago, but to-day, when the difference has widened to over 3½d. per lb., the proposition is an entirely different one, and it is an undoubted fact that many spinners, who a short time ago were eagerly buying Egyptian, are now giving it the cold shoulder, and turning to other so-called "outside" channels in the hope of finding a cheaper substitute. Doubtless, if prices remain even reasonably steady, a large proportion will drift back to Egyptian, but steady markets do not appear probable at the moment, and the situation just at present is fraught with considerable uncertainty. A feature of the week has been the almost total neglect of the better grades of Sakellaridis, prices asked being out of all proportion to the ability of the ordinary spinner to pay, and tnis is already having its effect here and there, where some holders have been quick to reduce their asking basis for cotton grading strict fully good fair, to good. Another sign of the times has been the revival in the demand for low cotton (which recently had practically died away) and for "anything cheap!"

Fully good fair Sakellaridis can be bought here to-day at from 75 to 100 on January contracts. Uppers have been in good request, and cheap lots have been eagerly snapped up, both by spinners and speculators. Some importers have been disposing of their stocks at about 300 on January (American) contracts, which basis has been well below the official quotations. White cotton continues to be freely asked for. C.i.f. business has ruled quiet, offerings from Alexandria proving anything but attractive, as a result of the miniature "boom" which is taking place there. Trade reports have continued good, and Egyptian spinners have declined emphatically to consider any question of control —a fact which has considerable significance. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending November 16 were returned as 8,889 bales, total deliveries since August 1 last being 124,151 bales. Estimated sales, 3,100 Egyptians and 250 bales Sudan. Quotations of Uppers are raised 300 points; Sakellaridis shows an advance of 360 points, except fair, good fair, and fully good fair, which are all 350 points higher. Brown cotton shows an advance of 305 points, except fine, which is 260 up, and extra fine, which is 210 points higher. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day, 24.65d. per lb.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Fluctuations in American.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended November 24 states:

The state of this market remains virtually unchanged from that reported last week. American raw cotton, whilst fluctuating a great deal is, on balance, a little dearer, whilst there has been a very considerable rise in Egyptian.

Not much business is going through on the basis of present cost of production, buyers abroad being very slow in following the heavy increase which has taken place in prices. Stocks of goods made from cheaper cotton and yarn are being cleared in a satisfactory way, but when supplies of this nature are exhausted it is feared that there will be a relapse to the stagnant conditions with which the trade is now only too familiar.

Yarn.—Quotations of American spinnings are a little harder on the week, whilst Egyptians are much dearer following the raw material. Spinners generally, owing to the reduction in stocks, are displaying a firmer attitude and endeavouring to improve their position. Naturally, with buyers reluctant to follow the advance, negotiations are difficult.

Cloth.—As already mentioned, operations on the basis of present cost of production are limited, but there has been a very good inquiry at lower prices, in respect of which many orders have been booked through producers who are in a position to satisfy it owing to their well-bought position. Shirtings had been taken for India, and a fair amount of greys for China. Egypt, which is presumably looking forward to more prosperous times owing to the better prices which are being realised for its cotton crop, has sent forward quite a large number of inquiries.

Raw Cotton.—As already stated, this market retains the very firm tone of recent weeks. Purchases, particularly in Egyptian, have been on a good scale. In many quarters it is now thought that the rise in prices has gone quite as far as is justified. Closing prices are as follows:—American Fully Middling, 20.49; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 24.75.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

COMMERCIAL MOTOR EXHIBITION—I.

While it would be difficult to imagine two exhibitions more different in character than the Motor Show and the Commercial Motor Exhibition, they have this in common, that both furnish an admirable picture of British enterprise and British prowess in most difficult conditions. The scene is more obscure in the present exhibition for the very obvious reason that while light cars are protected to a certain extent commercial cars are not, so that during the past few years this all-essential side of the British motor industry has had to face not only the competition created by the disposal of Government surplus cars, but also intense and growing foreign competition. While foreign cars were considerably in evidence at the Motor Show they play a very important rôle at the Commercial Motor Exhibition, and it is only to be expected that they should, in view of the handicaps under which British firms labour. It is not surprising that the position of the industry should be a leading plank in the Protection platform; probably no other industry shows so clearly the value of a tariff. But each industry is a law unto itself, and lest I be charged with encroaching on political affairs I must hasten to add that the only conclusion to be drawn from the state of this particular industry is that a stiff tariff on foreign cars of all descriptions would mean the salvation of the British motor trade.

In view of the circumstances, it can only be said that British firms have done very well. It is two years since the last exhibition of commercial cars, and in that period there have been great developments, the fruits of which are to be seen on all sides at Olympia; and the high standard attained by the British productions makes it quite evident that in equal conditions this country is fully capable of at least holding its own as regards commercial cars just as it is in respect of light cars. And in saying that one gives high praise for the British cars exhibited at the Motor Show left nothing to be desired.

Of the many special features at Olympia nothing strikes the eye more than the six-wheeled monster lorries, the last word, so far, in this type of vehicle. One is left wondering how it is possible for such creatures to progress along the roads at all, and yet, as a matter of fact, they are most pliable cars, turning corners with the greatest of ease. Then there are the char-a-bancs of all sorts and types, and motor-omnibuses of the type with which everyone is familiar, and many which few visitors to the show are likely to have seen before—really gigantic vehicles seating *n* passengers. One turns from these giants almost with a breath of relief to the small commercial cars, diminutive one-seaters or two-seaters, with a businesslike appearance written all over them, and withal looking so easy to manipulate that one could quite imagine the veriest tyro desiring to have a trial run. Besides these exhibits there are fire-engines, ambulances, cars peculiarly adapted to desert travel, and last, but not least, a section devoted to town-planning exhibits, which has a special interest for the Near East, where from one cause or another so much has to be done in that direction in the next few years.

Turning to the exhibits, Messrs. Morris Motors, Ltd., have a very interesting stand, showing various examples of their 11.9 h.p. light van. The chassis particulars may be briefly described. The engine is 69.5 bore by 102 stroke, the wheelbase is 8 ft. 6 in. and the track is 4 ft., and the van has a load capacity of 8 cwt. The weight of the van varies from 16 cwt. to 16½ cwt. All the examples shown are very workmanlike productions, eminently suitable for commercial purposes.

Messrs. the "Sentinel" Waggon Works, Ltd., show a 6-ton waggon fitted with Miller's tilt-van body, a 5-ton 3-way tipping waggon, a 10-ton 6-wheeler fitted with a high-sided body, and a tractor. The 10-ton model has an engine 6¾-in. bore by 9-in. stroke, and is fitted with poppet valves with a working steam pressure of 230 lb. per sq. in. There are internal expanding brakes, the wheelbase is 10 ft. 9½ in. front and 13 ft. 3 in. back, and the track is 5 ft. 5 in., the overall length being 32 ft. 8⅝ in. The tractor, which has a haulage capacity of 20 tons, has an engine with 6¾ bore by 9 in. stroke, and is also fitted with internal expanding brakes.

Messrs. John I. Thornycroft and Co., Ltd., show a representative collection of their motor vehicles, including a 50 h.p., 6-ton brewer's lorry, a 40 h.p. 5-ton tank vehicle, a motor-coach, and two omnibuses. The lorry has a four-cylinder engine, 4¾ in. bore by 6 in. stroke, and there is forward control. The body is of the hinged sided type, fitted with easily removable extended sides. The tank wagon is fitted with a "D" type 1,200 gallon capacity tank, constructed by the Steel Barrel Co., Ltd. Messrs. Thornycroft, it may be added, are now fitting their new 50 h.p. engine to this type of waggon.

Mr. R. Roy Wilson, assistant general manager of the Bank of British West Africa, has been adopted as the Conservative candidate for the Lichfield Division of Staffordshire.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

JAFFA, November 3.

Much rain fell during the week. About 5,000 cases of oranges were shipped to Liverpool via Port Said during the week. The first direct shipments will commence on the 10th inst.

NABLUS, November 3.

The prices of our "Naboulsi" soaps, which fluctuated last October and during the preceding months, now show a firm tendency to rise. The cantar is at present quoted in Egypt at pt. 280 to 290, instead of pt. 260-270 in October. There have been few transactions in cereals during this week.

MOSUL, October 27.

The gall nut season has just commenced. It is generally reported that the yield will be 30 per cent. lower than it was last year.

KERMANSHAH, October 27.

The market is quite stagnant. Sterling fell during the early part of the week, but recovered; rupees moved similarly, with a pronounced improvement at the close in sympathy with Baghdad.

HAMADAN, October 27.

Markets are calm owing to scarcity of money. Wheat and barley prices are unchanged, and large stocks have accumulated. Foreign exchange rates are as follows (telegraphic transfers): Sterling 46 krans per £; rupees, Baghdad, 318½.

BASRAH, October 27.

The market has been active, owing to transactions in colonial produce. Dates are in demand in the East, in Egypt, on the coast of Syria, and the ports of the Red Sea. The export of cereals for England continues.

NO DEMAND FOR MOTOR BOATS IN ROUMANIA.

Roumania, for the present at least, may be eliminated as a market for motor-boats and marine engines (says an American Consular report). Under the Versailles peace treaty Roumania and Yugoslavia were given a large share of the Danube transport fleet. From Russia and Bulgaria they also took over a number of motor-driven craft, which have badly deteriorated. It is presumed that before any new purchases would be made these craft would be reconstructed and used. Roumanians are not much given to pleasure boating at any time, and the only market for needed craft for this diversion would be with the comparatively few wealthy landowners or foreigners who have opportunity and desire to engage in this sport. German-made marine engines outnumber all others in actual operation in Roumanian waters.

ALGERIAN OILFIELDS.

The report of the Algerian Oilfields for the year ended September 30 states that the output from the area operated by the Societe Algerienne des Petroles de Tliouanet was 1,373,000 kilos, compared with 1,085,423 kilos for the previous year. The last accounts issued by the Tliouanet Company show that the whole of the expenses of that company—including drilling expenditure—were met by the sale of this output, so that in the event of the output being increased in the near future a profit should be shown by the Tliouanet Company. Since the date of the last report drilling operations have not been resumed on the property of the Trinidad Esmeralda Estate. Meeting, Palmerston House, E.C., December 4, noon.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000

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ECONOMIC BOARD FOR PALESTINE.

Steady Progress.

The third annual general meeting of the Economic Board for Palestine was held on November 21.

Sir Robert Cohen, K.B.E., presided, in the absence of Sir Alfred Mond, Bart. (Chairman of the Executive Committee). The hon. secretary is Mr. W. S. Cohen.

Sir Robert, in moving the adoption of the report of the Executive Committee said:—As is evident from the report, Palestine has suffered very much from the prevailing commercial depression. A great deal of money has been locked up during the past three years in building, and as the banks have not been willing to give unlimited credits, money for ordinary commercial purposes has been rather difficult to find. The Secretary of State for the Colonies has stated in a recently published despatch that economic conditions will not improve in Palestine unless political stability is secured and general confidence established. This is no doubt true, and it is one of the reasons why progress has been somewhat slow. At the same time I think that from a political point of view there has recently been a considerable improvement. Things are better than they were, and very much better than those who rely for their information on certain organs of the Press would imagine. I believe that in Palestine, at any rate, all sections of the population are beginning to realise that there is nothing to be gained by continual agitation, that really there is nothing to agitate about, and I expect to see the best men of all shades of opinion gradually coming together to work for the development of the country. There can be no doubt that this is the right solution, and one which will be particularly welcome to us, for the Economic Board has nothing to do with politics.

I have always felt that if we can succeed in our object of bringing capital into Palestine for development purposes, and making it productive, we shall do a great deal more than merely earn dividends. We shall be promoting the peace as well as the prosperity of the country, for I am sure that much of the discontent which has existed has been due to the natural disappointment that there has been so little visible result from all the high hopes which were entertained in many directions. That is why I think the work of the Economic Board so important.

Turning to the report, I think you will see that the Economic Board still maintains its faith in the economic future of Palestine, and that although there have been no startling developments during the year, there are other good judges who evidently share our view, for two large undertakings for dealing with agricultural products have completed their installation during the year and are about to begin business, the Shemen Oil Company and the Grands Moulins de Palestine, both at Haifa.

Near Haifa also, as you will see from the report, a company with the substantial capital, all paid-up, of £200,000 odd, has been formed to manufacture cement. The founder of this company is M. Michel Polak, who is a director of the Palestine Corporation. He and his friends have not only invested largely in the company, but M. Polak intends to give his personal attention to the management, and is at present in Palestine for the purpose. We have every confidence that the company will be a success, and that it will keep in Palestine the considerable sum which at present goes out of the country to pay for imported cement.

The Palestine Corporation which, as you know, was created as our financial instrument, is interested in this company, and in another company, the Palestine Salt Company, also producing an article of general necessity which has hitherto been imported into the country. It is too soon to report any results from this company as yet, as the necessary drainage and other works were not completed in time for any substantial quantity of salt to be evaporated this year. It is hoped, however, that next year we shall be able to report that the full estimated production has been reached. It is gratifying to know that the drainage of the marshes, which are used as reservoirs for the salt-water, has resulted in a very marked improvement in the health of the neighbourhood.

The other activities of the Corporation are set out in the report, and do not call for special comment. The capital is far less than could be usefully employed, and we shall in due course require to increase it. The discerning investor can still get in on the ground floor by applying for some of the £11,500 deferred shares which are still unallotted. The policy of the Board is to devote a considerable part of its funds to loans to undertakings which require further capital to extend their operations. As these loans are generally relatively small and are adequately secured, this is an attractive form of business, and there can be no doubt about its usefulness. Another field for investment will be in municipal loans for water-works, and possibly loans for drainage schemes. It can only be a question of time before the inhabitants of such towns as Jerusalem and Haifa insist on a water supply which approximates to modern requirements, and this is a matter to which we intend to give special attention.

The Central Bank is the next item in the report, and I am sure you will be glad to see that this institution, which owes its initiation and such a large portion of its funds to our friends in the United States, has made such an excellent start. You will find full details in the extracts from the very interesting report of the general manager. They are marked "confidential" because the report has only recently been received, and has not yet been considered by the board of the bank. It is only by their courtesy that we are permitted to make these extracts. The report will be published in due course and will then be available for the Press. I think we have an institution here which is going to do very useful work. It has dealt with twenty-three co-operative societies, with a membership of 8,426. It was quite a revelation to me, as I daresay it will be to you, to find that the co-operative movement had made such headway in Palestine, and it is a very encouraging sign.

The loans made to the agricultural co-operatives are particularly interesting. To have lent £20,000 in the first year of our work, not to have made any bad debts, and to know that the borrowers have made a substantial profit on the transaction, is a state of things which reflects equal credit on the lenders and the borrowers.

You will notice that a loan to the tobacco planters is included. Tobacco is a new industry in Palestine, which has been made possible by the abolition of the monopoly. This year's is, I believe, the third crop. The Jewish Colonisation Association have, as so often in Palestine, taken the initiative, and have played a most beneficent part in introducing tobacco, and I understand that this year's crop from the colonies in which it is interested amounts to about 70,000 kilos, and has been sold at a price which is much higher than that of previous years, and will be a great encouragement to the growers.

The best judges consider that the soil and climate of Palestine are eminently adapted to the cultivation of tobacco of excellent quality, and that it ought to be possible to create a considerable export trade, but I understand that the general quality of the tobacco produced hitherto—though there have been great and progressive improvements—does not yet reach a sufficiently high standard to compete in the markets of the world. Great efforts are being made by everyone concerned to improve the quality and increase the quantity of tobacco grown, and I cannot help thinking that it is a great pity that the Government has hitherto found itself unable to co-operate on any adequate scale with those who are trying to put this important industry on a sound basis. I am a great believer in private enterprise, but in an undeveloped country like Palestine where the imports so largely exceed the exports, it would surely pay the Government to provide a few instructors and generally to help with the machinery which is required.

I do not know whether you will see any Palestine tobacco at the British Empire Exhibition where, as you know, Palestine is to have a pavilion—here is the picture of it—but you will certainly see a very interesting exhibit which I hope will be of real benefit to the country. It has been a great satisfaction to us to have been able to be of considerable service to the Government in this matter. As was stated last year, we agreed to raise a guarantee fund of £2,500. Well, we have done rather better, and have raised £2,700. We have promised to do our utmost to reach £3,000, for these things always cost more than you expect,

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and we shall be very glad if anyone who has not contributed to the fund will give in his or her name. Our honorary secretary, with his colleague, Mr. A. Sefi, have acted as commissioners on behalf of the Government, and have done all the preliminary work, which has been very considerable.

Before I sit down, there are two important matters which are not mentioned in the report, about which I would like to say a few words. A real step forward in connection with the port has been taken, and the Government have received a report with definite proposals from their consulting engineer, Colonel Solomon, who knows all about it, and whom we are very glad to welcome as a member, and who will perhaps be able to tell us something, and whether the Economic Board can be of any assistance in the matter. The other matter is the Palestine Loan. Not much progress has been made, and the Government seems to have pursued a somewhat halting course in respect of it. We can only say that if we are able to be of any assistance we shall, of course, be very glad.

Concluding his address, Sir Robert said:—I feel I should not be doing my duty if I did not express to our hon. secretary the grateful thanks of the board for the work he does for us. He is not only the life and soul of the board, but almost the entire activity of the board rests on his shoulders. Anyone who has anything at all to do with the board will agree that he has rendered enormous service to Palestine in the work he does for the board.

I beg to move the adoption of the report and accounts, and call on Colonel Solomon to second it.

Lieut.-Col. H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., then seconded the adoption of the report. In view of the interest attaching to his speech, a full report of it will appear in next week's issue of The Near East.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted. On the motion of Mr. A. I. Belisha, Mr. J. A. de Rothschild and Mr. Sigmund Samuel were re-elected members of the Executive Council, and on the motion of Mr. O. E. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, Lieut.-Col. H. J. Solomon, O.B.E., and Sir Robert Waley Cohen, K.B.E., were added to that body, Sir A. Tuck, Bart., seconding. The annual subscription for the year 1923-24 was fixed at £20, the Hon. Secretary stating that with the enrolment of new members that amount should be considerably decreased. Mr. G. S. Engle, C.A., the hon. auditor, was re-elected, and a vote of thanks to the Chair concluded the business of the meeting.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

Egypt.

Acids, etc.—The Chemical Department, Cairo, invites tenders in connection with acids and chemicals required for delivery on or about April 1, 1924. A copy of the specification can be obtained on application.

Pump.—The Director-General, State Domains Administration (Commercial Service), Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of a centrifugal pump, 14 in. December 18.

Glass Panes.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of glass panes during one year. December 11.

Binding Material, etc.—The Superintendent, Government Press, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of cloth, binding, and printing material, and type-metal. December 20.

Oils, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of oils, paints, soap, pitch, and tar required for the financial year 1924-1925. January 7.

Uniforms, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of uniforms and boots required for the financial year 1924-1925. December 17.

Telegraph Poles.—The Superintendent of Stores, Egyptian State Railways, Telegraphs, and Telephones, Bulâq, Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of telegraph poles. December 20.

The Egyptian Markets has declared an interim dividend of 5 per cent., less tax, on the ordinary shares.

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Capital paid up	5,000,000
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SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

NEW ANDREW WEIR MOTOR-VESSEL.

The launch took place at Govan, on November 22, of the Kathiawar, a single-screw motor vessel, which has been built by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., to the order of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co. The new vessel is 384 by 48 by 36 ft., with a gross tonnage of about 4,320, is of the shelter deck type, classed 100 A1 at Lloyd's, and complies with the British Board of Trade requirements for passenger service, as well as those of the Indian Government for emigrants. There are two complete steel decks, in addition to the forecastle and boat-decks, and navigating and docking bridges.

The cargo hatches are worked by ten of the builders' special built steel derricks, each being suitable for 5-ton lifts, rigged in the most approved manner for the rapid handling of cargo, and attached to two steel pole masts and two derrick posts. The cargo winches, of which there are ten, and a warping winch, are operated electrically. The windlass is electrically driven, as also is the steering-gear, which is controlled from the wheelhouse by a telemotor. The 'tween decks are arranged to accommodate native passengers, or for the stowage of cargo as required. In addition to the large cargo hatchways to the 'tween decks, four spacious stairways are fitted for native passengers. At the after end of the 'tween decks accommodation is provided in cabins for twenty-eight second-class passengers. In addition to the accommodation provided for the captain, officers, engineers, and crew, there is first-class accommodation for twelve passengers, which includes dining saloon, bathrooms, etc. The Kathiawar is intended for the Calcutta-South Africa service of Messrs. Andrew Weir and Co.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Massilia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 4).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mandasor for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 1); s.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 8); s.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Gloucestershire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 5).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 7); s.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 8); s.s. Dalgoma for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22); s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 22).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Malcolm for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, December 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Sparta, for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 3).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Fabrai for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 1).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines).—S.s. Registan for Persian Gulf (Manchester, December 8).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Tasso for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, December 12).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Vedamore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 1); s.s. Dromore, for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29); a steamer, closing on or about January 19, for all ports up to and including Constantza.

Moss Line.—S.s. Sitra for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 28); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. Egyptian Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 4).

Owing to a landslip, the Corinth Canal has become impassable. Steps are being taken immediately to repair the damage, and it is hoped that navigation for big craft will be resumed in about two months.

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 656—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Greek Politics.

The political situation in Greece almost defies comment. From many sources comes confirmation of the view already hazarded in these columns, that the Greek people as a whole are indifferent to the Pull-Devil, Pull-Baker tactics of the politicians, or, more strictly speaking, of the military. A monster meeting in Athens, calling upon M. Venizelos to return to Greece in order to save the country, only adds to the pathos of the general dilemma. The Greek nation is sick of politics, with all its alarms and excursions, and wants merely to be allowed to settle down to serious work. It is prevented from doing this by the existence of a Revolutionary Government, which cannot command either in Greece or abroad the confidence necessary to enable the country to stand on its own feet again. This Government has made matters worse by allowing the army to be distracted by political propaganda, and by encouraging an influential section of officers to foster an agitation for a Republic, the mere suggestion of which still further prejudices Greece abroad. In order to get back to normal conditions the country needs to be rid, first of all, of the Republican movement, then of the Revolutionary Committee. M. Venizelos presumably recognises this fact, which has escaped the notice of the Athens demonstrators, and it remains to be seen whether he feels sufficiently strong to cut the Gordian knot to make it worth his while to go back on his undertaking not to take office again in Greece. It is significant that in his defence before the Court-martial, General Leonardopoulos, leader of the recent "insurrection," emphatically declared that his movement was launched solely to put an end to the curse of politics in the army. He protested that he had had no intention of provoking civil war, and refused to fight when he found that the nation did not support him in his efforts. It would seem as if someone had to do the work which General Leonardopoulos failed to do before Greece could benefit from M. Venizelos's return to the helm.

Towards Balkan Unity.

The signature at Sofia on November 27 of four Conventions between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria is a welcome step towards the burying of the hatchet in the Balkans. The Conventions in question, it is true, are concerned with matter-of-fact arrangements which do not necessarily entail friendly sentiment on either side. One agreement, indeed, deals with the question of Reparations, settling the amount to be paid by Bulgaria for the damage caused by the occupation of Eastern Serbia from 1915 to 1918. The indemnity is fixed at three hundred million leva, half to be paid in cash in four instalments between May, 1924, and 1927, and half in kind, mainly cereals and coal. The other Conventions relate to extradition, reciprocity in judicial procedure, and quarantine matters. Negotiations for these agreements were begun under the Stambolisky régime; their conclusion now suggests that the Yugoslav Government has definitively abandoned its contention that the new order in Bulgaria is in any way prejudicial to Yugoslav interests. The Bulgarian Government achieved a useful moral success in its correct behaviour over the Kristitch affair—a success enhanced by the discovery, after the terms of the ultimatum had been carried out, of the ridiculous triviality of the incident, which Yugoslavia recognised by intimating that the matter was closed before the question of compensation could be discussed. If both countries can join in laughing over the mock heroics with which that affair was temporarily invested, there will be no need to despair of an early removal of the bitterness left by the War and of a gradual advance towards some practical form of unity in the Balkans which will give the four countries a more effective voice in European affairs than they can ever have singly.

Concessions in Turkey.

The Chester Concession has hardly been taken seriously enough outside the United States and Turkey to cause much interest to be attached to the report of its impending cancellation. For the Turkish Government, however, the occasion is opportune for a careful revision of its whole fiscal policy. The Chester Concession belongs to the period when it was believed that the internal resources of Turkey were so great that the Government would have the whole world of concessionnaires at its feet ready to undertake the development of the country on the Government's own

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terms. The actions of some individuals lent colour to the belief; but time is tending to show that their eagerness for concessions is in inverse proportion to their capacity to "deliver the goods." From the Turkish point of view they were more attractive than the better-known business concerns likely to be interested in Turkey, because they were more amenable to preliminary payments and to terms more favourable to Turkey. Their failure to make good, however, leaves the Turkish Government much worse off than if it had originally made a sound contract on less advantageous terms.

Short-sighted Finance.

The outcry against foreign loans coincided with the Government's own confidence in the efficacy of its concession policy and encouraged it to render lip homage to the principle of forswearing loans. As a result it has been hard put to it to carry on the administration of the country. By dint of emergency measures—the sale of abandoned properties, the withholding of revenue due to the Debt, retrospective taxation, and other devices—it still contrives to keep in the background its urgent need for a foreign loan; but its financial position must be causing it anxiety. In such circumstances there is always the temptation to increase the circulation of paper money, which, if indulged in, will inevitably postpone the rehabilitation of Turkey. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Government will take advantage of the cancellation of the Chester Concession and of the approaching negotiations regarding Mosul to place its finances on a sounder basis.

Italy and Spain.

The definite outcome of the visit of King Alfonso to Rome may not be known for some time; but its purpose can hardly be other than to facilitate joint action on the part of Italy and Spain in certain circumstances. In other words, we are witnessing further steps in the revival of the balance of power in Europe, and it is significant that more weight is being attached to the Italo-Spanish negotiations than to the previous understanding between France and Belgium or to the Little Entente. The reason is possibly to be sought in the fact that there has been no Power to express alarm or experience any uneasiness over the other combinations. The Rome discussions, however, find France manifestly exercised in mind lest her relative position in the Mediterranean should be permanently modified to her disadvantage. From this point it is an easy step to the grouping of the States of Europe in two mutually suspicious camps, and the world will find itself little, if any, better off than it was before 1914. The tendency could be checked if France could realise betimes that it is her constant violation of the spirit of the Great Alliance and of her Entente with Great Britain that has brought it about.

Afghanistan.

The report that the Ameer of Afghanistan is experiencing difficulties in the enforcement of conscription serves to recall the notable changes that are taking place in that country under the present ruler. Amanullah Khan labours under the disability of being many years ahead of his countrymen, for it may be doubted whether many, if any, even of his Ministers whole-heartedly share his enthusiasm for reform. No doubt they do their best to carry out His Majesty's ambitious programme, if only because the Ameer makes it a regular practice to keep his eye on the various administrative departments. His chief success so far would appear to be in the sphere of justice, in regard to which his people have not been slow to appreciate the advantages of the new order. Education is being widely extended, even a girls' school has been opened in the capital. A standing army, however, implies discipline, and to this innovation the average Afghan will probably continue for some time to offer resistance. Afghanistan, it is well to recall, is far from being a unified country; rather is it a collection of States in each of which the spirit of local and personal independence is strongly developed among the inhabitants. Slowly, however the country is emerging from its primitiveness, and the time may come when the Ameer Amanullah Khan will be enshrined in the hearts of his people as the founder of new Afghanistan. At present we can well believe they are inclined to regard him as the restless disturber of cherished traditions.

Prosperous India.

Indications which reach us from various sources make it clear that Indians in the mass have entered on a period of welcome prosperity. The September floods, which caused local and temporary distress, are, as usually happens, being followed by a wide extension of cultivation rendered possible by the heavy rainfall, and we hear that the north expects something like a "record" area under wheat and oilseeds. Exports, too, are now moving off well, as the rising exchange shows; railway traffic is at last expanding, and the people in general are buying winter clothes on a scale which denotes that they are not only hopeful for the future, but have cash in hand at the moment. The large sales of woollen goods are particularly noteworthy, because, while wool is really a necessity for wear during the northern winter, its use is still comparatively recent, and when Delhi, the great centre of the distributing trade, finds itself practically sold out of woollens in the first week of November, the conclusion can safely be drawn that a definite step has been taken towards the higher standard of living which is one of the great needs of the country.

The Bombay Cotton Gamble.

Bombay has this year directed its autumnal outburst of gambling to the market for raw cotton, stimulated doubtless by the rise in the world price of that staple, and the cables have depicted for us a situation which ought to be impossible in any civilised community. The professionals, being heavily oversold, have, we are told, closed the market for the time being, and all legitimate trade is held up until they have recovered their breath, producers being unable to sell, while spinners and shippers cannot buy. We have more than once directed attention to the handicap imposed on a large part of India by the idiosyncrasies of the small community which happens to control so much of the business of the country, and during the past year there have been welcome signs that public opinion is becoming attentive and increasingly resentful. The final cure for the evil would be the creation of several alternative seaports, but since natural and financial conditions are apparently opposed to such a development, the authorities are all the more bound to take effective action to protect legitimate business interests against the domination of a small minority.

Provincial Governors.

The selection of Viscount Goschen as Governor of Madras, following on the appointment of Sir Leslie Wilson to Bombay, is in accordance with the new tradition that these posts should fall to men with parliamentary and official experience. Viscount Goschen has sat in both Houses, and was at one time a Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, while his reputation in the world of high finance

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encourages the hope that his administration will be characterised by sound economic guidance as well as continued progress towards constitutional democracy, a field in which Madras is at present well ahead of the other Indian provinces. Lord Willingdon will be a difficult man to follow, for in Madras, as previously in Bombay, he has nearly always done the right thing at the right time, so much so indeed that he has been talked of in some circles as the right man for the Punjab, where an appointment will soon have to be made, and where the existing conditions call for the best man available. We imagine, however, that Lord Willingdon will now take the rest he has earned by ten years of labour, and that the authorities will have to look elsewhere for some one to carry on Sir Edward Maclagan's arduous task.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

The Election.

The desire to guess upon the result of the Election is natural and universal, but this year it is difficult even for the people with inside knowledge to make that guess. If a mean be struck between reports which come in from all sides, it would appear that Mr. Baldwin will get a majority of anything between twenty and sixty, but it may very well be much more or a little less. For a Southerner, who has never worshipped at the image of Free Trade, it is hard to conceive with what reverence it is regarded in the prosaic North and in Scotland; and it is just these districts which contain most of the probable surprises.

Speaking generally, one could say that Protectionist stock has risen in the last week. The level sanity of the Premier has made its due impression just as the flashy jumpings of Mr. Lloyd George have dismayed many of his former admirers. Without any doubt, too, the Labour people are realising the value of Protection, if only as a retaliatory weapon. I intend to make no prophecy upon the result, but I cannot understand those seers who allege grounds for believing that the Liberals will constitute the next official Opposition.

The fear of a Coalition, to which I referred last week, has now been made public; and the manœuvres of that section of the Press which is doing its best to bring about a stalemate and, subsequently, a Coalition, have been fairly well exposed. If this campaign of Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook fails, it will be a remarkable triumph for the ordinary man. But, apart from the regrettable conduct of these two newspaper proprietors, it should be noted the Conservatives and Liberals are not slanging each other in the good old way: with the exception of Mr. Lloyd George, indeed, they are all unusually careful to avoid personalities. In this fact some folk see the probability of a Coalition.

Home and Foreign Politics.

Protection and Free Trade are supposed to be the issues of the election, but it is, of course, foreign politics which are infinitely more important. And it has been amusing in this connection to notice how Lord Robert Cecil, for the Conservatives, and Earl Grey, for the Liberals, have been appealing for a return of their parties so that British support of the League of Nations may be continued. Lord Robert states that no Liberal ascendancy is conceivable in which Mr. Lloyd George is not at the head of affairs, and everyone knows the ex-Premier's record in foreign politics. And Earl Grey retorts by saying that in the Conservatives are to be found the most determined opponents of the League, and that Mr. Lloyd George would not necessarily gain supreme power.

The normal man will say that neither of these two eminent men is right. He is not so enamoured of the League as is Lord Robert Cecil, and he certainly thinks that the danger of Mr. Lloyd George's return is greater than does Earl Grey. It cannot be too often repeated, indeed, that a settlement of Europe is absolutely impossible if Mr. Lloyd George runs this country, for the simple reason that he never has a consistent mind upon foreign politics. The Liberal and Labour policies are both ones of opposition to France, and it is quite as much the fact that Mr. Baldwin intends to work in with France as his introduction of tariff proposals that will gain him votes at the election. "Pro-British first and pro-France second" is the Premier's excellent motto; whereas the motto of our good Liberal and Labour statesmen is Germany or Russia second.

The Press and the Election.

Nothing is so striking at the present time as the lack of reflection of the probable results of the Election in the Press. There are supporting the Government but three London daily papers—*The Times*, the *Telegraph*, and the *Morning Post*. Of the weeklies there is the *Saturday Review*, and, in reserved support, seeing that it demands a referendum before Protection is imposed upon the country, the *Spectator*. Against the Government are, of course, the Liberal papers, the *Daily News* and the *Westminster Gazette*, but also the so-called "independent" dailies, the *Mail* and the *Express* (in other words, the *Evening News* and *Evening Standard*). In Manchester, I am told, there is not a single paper in support of Protection, and in Glasgow but one. If people were to vote as they are told by their newspapers, therefore, the outlook for the Government would be bleak indeed; but one knows that that will not be so. Besides, there are a few million readers belonging to Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere who are not told definitely for whom they are to vote, so that these poor creatures wandering in the wilderness will be certain to make most dreadful mistakes.

The Outcome.

It is impossible not to speculate upon the results of the Election. Many views are, of course, held on the course that things in England will take. For myself, I do not believe that, if the Premier is successful, his Protective measures will be permanent. The intelligence of this country is, nor-

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mally speaking, in favour of Free Trade; and it is only because of the abnormal times that the possibility of our reverting to Protection is admitted. Once the foreign exchanges have approached the pre-War level or, at any rate, have become stabilised, it is probable that we shall have Free Trade again. There are, on the other hand, people who take the opposite view—that Protection is likely to do immediate harm and ultimate good—but them I do not understand.

If we are to suffer a Coalition again, I think that we are in for a very bad time. Without much doubt, a Coalition (composed, as it would be, of the least scrupulous and, therefore, of the least English men) would assume a policy of irritating opposition to France. Now that we have no force with which to back up our threats, its action would be limited to assisting financially our ex-enemies, and it is only too probable that in the rebuilding of the pre-War world which we ourselves helped to destroy, they would acquire such extraneous aid as to make their effort most successful. We should then have Europe divided into two parts: the first, the more powerful militarily, controlled by France, and the second, the more powerful financially, controlled, through England, by the Internationalists—from which, Good Lord, deliver us!

Mr. Lloyd George.

There are, I am credibly informed, men who have read all the important election speeches so far, but I confess I am by no means one of them. It seems that there is something unreal in the present fight, in which the combatants but gently thrust and parry. There are no honest broadsides such as we used to have: courteous dullness is the prevailing tone.

But there is, inevitably, one exception—Mr. Lloyd George. He alone is capable of climbing to the heights of impertinence, of descending to the depths of vulgarity, of splashing on the muddy middle way. He is bound by no such antiquated thing as political morality; his tongue pays no stiff homage to the musty virtue of decency. He says what he for the minute thinks, yet never thinks for a minute what he says. A more thoroughly unbalanced politician it is to be hoped we shall never see. The story has now found general credence that he came back from America full to the brim of his bowler hat with proposals of Imperial Preference and of Tariff Reform, but, on finding that Mr. Baldwin had spiked his guns, fell back on the unresisting bosom of the Liberal Party. Already those naïve nurses are beginning to suspect a serpent.

An Alarmist Report.

A sensation was caused a few days ago when a report about war preparations in Germany was issued. It was stated, and it has not been denied, that Germany is not keeping within the military bounds laid down by the Treaty, and that she is drilling, recruiting, and manufacturing armaments on a serious scale. Too much, of course, can be made of reports like this; but, after reading it, I was reminded by a man who has just returned from Germany that two things are likely to happen there in the next few weeks; either the complete collapse of Germany, or else a war of despair against the French. From a domestic point of view, the report can scarcely help the Liberal or the Labour Party.

The Varsity Matches.

Their hearts are stout indeed who hope for Cambridge victories in the "Rugger" and "Soccer" matches next Tuesday and Wednesday. It is not only the terrifying record of the Oxford people, especially in their Rugger, but the level of the Cambridge sides, particularly in team-work, appears to be lower than usual. Oxford have men who can work individually and can co-operate: Cambridge have men who scarcely have the skill to know when to be unselfish. However, everything may go upside down at Twickenham and at the Crystal Palace: there is little harm in praying and shouting for the best thing to happen, even though it doesn't!

Alter Ego.

PICTURES OF PALESTINE.

Two interesting exhibitions of water-colours of Palestine, by Mrs. P. A. F. Stephenson and Miss Hilda M. Sides respectively, have recently been held at the Brook Street Galleries and Walker's Galleries. In Mrs. Stephenson's exhibition, part of the proceeds from which are being given to the Palestine Exploration Fund, there is extremely able work. She excels in the painting of flowers and of stonework, but it is, curiously enough, in this country of "atmosphere," to the inanimate that she has devoted her best work. Probably her finest things are the representations of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre; here she has not only apprehended and blended the richness of the scene, but she has given to the walls depth and an expression almost of speech. In many other pictures, however, there is a quality much above that of mere faithfulness to the original.

On rather less ambitious, but still very pleasant, lines, Miss Sides has planned her pictures of Palestine and of Syria. It is in straightforward subjects that she is happiest, as in the representation of courtyards, walls, tombs, and so on; in more poetically conceived moods (as in Baalbek at Sunrise) she is less successful. The most notable triumph of the exhibitor and a very definite one, is "The Temple of Bacchus, Baalbek"; here are strength, charm, and suggestiveness.

At Walker's Galleries also was given an exhibition of water-colour drawings of Italy, Belgium, the Riviera, Greece, and so on, by Lady Jephson. This artist has travelled very widely, from Zeebrugge to French Canada; she has pictures of Sweden and of Belgrade. But her most striking effort, which is completely and memorably successful, is "The Temple of the Sun, Athens."

Three treaties with Turkey, signed at Lausanne last summer, have been ratified by the Polish Seym.

It has been ascertained that Shahzada, of the Kohat gang, who killed Mrs. Ellis, also murdered Captain and Mrs. Watts at Parachinar.

A Constantinople telegram states that the heart specialist who attended Mustapha Kemal Pasha recently has been summoned back to Angora.

On November 27 a band of about 50 comitadjis, under the leader Berlo, attacked a village in Bulgaria, near the Serbian frontier, but were driven off by the villagers.

Major-General Sir William Rice Edwards, K.C.B. K.C.I.E., C.M.G., of Milner Street, Cadogan Square, S.W., lately Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, a Member of the Council of State for India, who died on October 13, aged 61, left estate of the gross value of £14,465, with net personalty £13,054.

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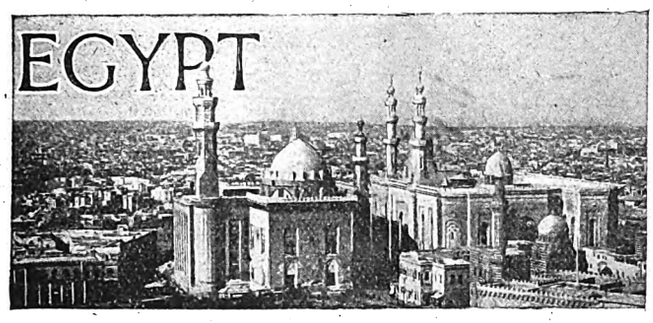
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, November 24.

The Elections.

The nominations have now been made of the candidates for the Chamber of Deputies, the final elections for which have been fixed for January 12. All the returns are not yet in, so it is not possible to say definitely how the parties stand. In Cairo the Wafd nominees are very strongly supported, and Zaghloul Pasha himself has no opponent in his own constituency, where, as might be expected, he has been nominated by every elector delegate. In Alexandria, the Nationalists, who, it was always understood, regarded that city as peculiarly theirs, have by no means been successful with their nominations, and over two-thirds of the elector delegates endorsed Wafd candidate papers. A goodly number of Zaghloulist nominees are receiving strong support in the provinces, but the Wafd is not likely to carry things before it there, as there appears to be every chance it will in the two large cities; and we may confidently look for very keen contests in the districts. Of course, the fact that certain candidates have been nominated by the majority of elector delegates in their constituency does not necessarily mean that they will be elected at the final election, since the law permits an elector delegate to vote for candidates other than those whose nomination he has backed, and it may be expected that at the last there will be a certain amount of hedging. That the Zaghloulists will secure a fair majority in the country as a whole there seems little doubt, although whether all the candidates who have gained admission to Parliament under Saad Pasha's banner will remain loyal to him once they are in is quite another matter. There has been a great deal of talk of the possibility of some of them deserting later on, and it will be exceedingly interesting to watch developments in this connection when Parliament gets going.

Sir Lee Stack.

Major-General Sir Lee Stack left Cairo this week for Khartoum. On his way he inspected detachments of the Egyptian Army at Assiut and Beni-suef, and joined Lady Stack at Luxor, whence he continued his journey by water to Wadi Halfa. While at Luxor the Sirdar and his party visited the tomb of Tutankhamen, which Mr. Howard Carter had reopened earlier in the week. There would appear to be no truth in the statements that there has been serious disagreement between Sir Lee and the Minister of War, Azmi Pasha, on questions affecting the Egyptian Army.

An Egyptian Explorer.

Two most interesting lectures were given this week by the Egyptian explorer, Ahmed Hassenein Bey, who recently returned from a journey across the Lybyan Desert. The first was held at the Royal Opera House, which H.M. King Fuad and Lord and Lady Allenby honoured with their presence, and the second at the Continental Savoy Hotel. On each occasion there was a very large audience, and the lecturer was received with enthusiasm. Hassenein Bey, on whom, at the conclusion of the lecture at the Opera House, the King conferred the honour of Bey, gave a very lucid exposition of his experiences during his journey—the first ever made across the Lybyan Desert from north to south—and declared that his geographical records, which include the discovery of two hitherto unknown oases, will make it possible to draw up an accurate chart of the Lybyan frontier of Egypt, which at present is for all practical purposes undefined. Both lectures were accompanied by excellent lantern slides and a cinema film which Hassenein Bey took of the country through which he trekked. It is possible that on his way to Washington, where he has been appointed First Secretary to the new Egyptian Legation, he will give one or two lectures in London, before one of the British scientific bodies.

Changes at the Post Office.

An important change has just taken place at the Post Office. Borton Pasha, who, after holding a similar position in the Sudan, has for many years been Postmaster-General, has resigned, and is to be succeeded by Hassan Mazlum Pasha, Governor of the Canal. In a recent number of THE NEAR EAST a tribute was paid to the services he had rendered to the country, and to the business community in particular, by the reforms he had introduced and the efficiency he had maintained in the Egyptian postal service, which, in this respect stands high amongst those of the world. The spontaneous expressions of sympathy and regret which Borton Pasha has received on all sides are ample confirmation of the high opinion then recorded of his work. The appointment of Mazlum Pasha to succeed him came quite as a surprise, as there was a fully qualified man available in the person of Salib Caludius Pasha, who has spent his life in the postal

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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service, and is now Deputy Director-General. It is understood that Salib Pasha is about to retire, and as Mr. Williams, who has for so long been in charge of the efficient Cairo Post Office, is likewise leaving, there will be scarcely any senior officials left to carry on this very important public service.

The English School in Cairo.

An appeal is being made on behalf of the English School in Cairo, which is in serious need of funds. The school, which was founded in 1916, is maintained in excellent buildings with an English staff to educate English children resident in Cairo or its neighbourhood. Parents are charged £30 a year fees; but many of them are unable to afford this sum, and bursaries are provided to enable the children of those who are less well off to receive the thoroughly English education which is provided. The chief object of the school is to give a truly English environment and upbringing to English children whose parents cannot afford to send them home for the purpose—objects the importance of which it is impossible to overrate in a country like Egypt, where conditions are semi-oriental and semi-cosmopolitan, and where the public standards of morality, commercial or private, are deplorably low.

That the English School in Cairo fills a great Imperial need is recognised in official circles, and for several years it enjoyed a subsidy from the British Treasury. That subsidy has now been withdrawn by the Home Government purely for reasons of economy—a peculiarly unfortunate decision, because it threatens the life of an institution which is not only of great importance to the British community in Egypt, but is also a means of maintaining British prestige and British traditions in an area where political developments have tended somewhat to affect them.

Other countries, such as France and Italy, realise the importance to their prestige in the Near East of the maintenance of State-subsidised schools conducted on national lines, and it is distinctly regrettable that, in a sphere of influence which is generally recognised as our own, our Government should leave the field free to other nations to undermine our influence by the propagation of their own languages and traditions. It is to be hoped that those interested in the spread of British influence in the Near East will bring pressure to bear on the Home Government to resume its subsidy, and that in the meantime support will be forthcoming from private sources to prevent this very necessary institution from having to close its doors. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, the English School, Bulac, Cairo.

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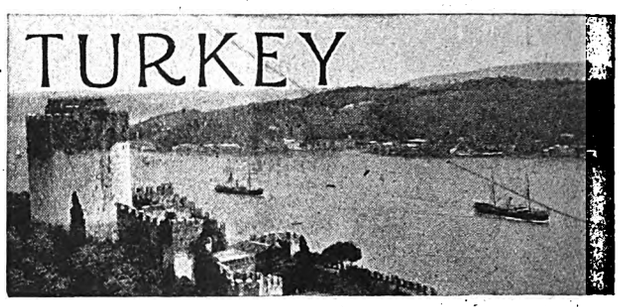

Constantinople, November 20.

Ismet Pasha's Views.

While no new topic of absorbing interest has arisen recently, the standing questions have retained their hold on the public mind. Ismet Pasha has given to a member of the Press his first interview since he has become Prime Minister. As he is reported by the correspondent of the *Vakit*, he laid great stress on the need for more self-confidence and more confidence in the Republican Government on the part of the Turkish people. He hinted that the main preoccupation of the Government was the continuance of that state of mind which saw no salvation except in the parasitical dependence of Turkey upon the help and support of some foreign Power. He maintained that the fact that Turkey had achieved her present state of political independence in the face of apparently insuperable difficulties was sufficient justification for scrapping that view and substituting for it a healthy optimism which should manifest itself in all classes of the population by energetic co-operation with the Government in its efforts to solve the problems awaiting solution. Open, well intentioned opposition he held to be a healthy sign, and he welcomed it; secret intrigue would be vigorously suppressed. One of the urgent problems which was being tackled was that of brigandage, and he claimed that in this respect the country was in a better condition than it had been in the past.

In tone the declaration was admirable, and, even if it is not possible to subscribe entirely to his optimistic estimate concerning the state of the country or his view that a change in the hearts of the people is all that is required to ensure the success of the new régime, it must be conceded that he has hit a very important nail on the head in pleading with his countrymen to give up their ingrained fatalistic pessimism about their capacity as a nation and a State. Whether they will be able to follow his advice is another story.

Foreign Relations.

Turkey's foreign relations are still in the stage of preliminary bargaining for the resumption of diplomatic relations and the conclusion of commercial and consular treaties with various States. The negotiations with the Albanian delegation at Angora were on the point of coming to a successful conclusion by the signature of an agreement; the banquet to celebrate the event had already been eaten and the flowery speeches made, when the two parties discovered that there was an irreconcilable difference between them on the subject of the nationality of Albanians resident in Turkey before the signature of the Treaty of London in

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1913. The Albanians are going home to consult their Government about it.

Moslems and Christians.

The popular agitation for reprisals against the Greek Christians for the alleged atrocities on Moslems in Greek territory is developing in the traditional manner. Whereas until now the public manifestations, indignation meetings, etc., have been confined to Angora, the agitation has now spread to Constantinople, and a public meeting of protest is announced to take place in the Square of Sultan Ahmed in Stamboul.

November 27.

The Difficult Path of Progress.

There are times when one almost despairs of this country and of its people. It is manifestly unjust to expect them to create a new heaven and a new earth in the space of a few weeks, but one does expect to see a few signs of an attempt to do so. One has not yet perceived a sign of anything of the kind. The Government tries to throw the blame for obstruction on the Opposition Press of Constantinople, quite oblivious of the fact that in the omnipotent Assembly the Opposition is officially non-existent, and the Opposition tries to show that there are more division and obstruction in the Assembly itself than outside it. Meanwhile everybody is pirouetting on the same spot of ground, and nothing is getting any "forrarder." The amazing feature of the whole situation is the patience of the public, who are aware of no particular change as the result of the long-desired independence, except an appreciable rise in the cost of living and in the nagging meddlesomeness of officialdom.

The Week's Work.

Take the budget of achievement for the week. Personalities occupied much valuable time; Reouf Bey, on his return to Angora, was hauled up by the party to explain some of his public utterances and actions while in Constantinople; Sabri Bey, Vice-President of the Assembly, resigned his post because a few noisy members objected to his ruling on a trivial point. The projected agreement with M. Huguenin about the Anatolian Railway, which the Government considers of cardinal importance to the development of the country, is held up for an indefinite period because part of the Government's supporters will apparently be satisfied with nothing less than the deliverance of foreign capitalists, bound hand and foot, to the tender mercies of the Assembly. The Turko-Albanian negotiations have broken down on a comparatively unimportant point of detail, which either side could easily have waived without tragic consequences.

The Case of Reouf Bey.

Of all these negative achievements of our legislators the most illuminating was that of putting Reouf Bey on the mat. His most heinous offence while he has been loose in Constantinople appears to have been a visit to the Khalif, which, as he patiently explained to his examining judges, he made in company wtih Refet Pasha and Adnan Bey, the accredited representative of the Government. He gently hinted, and the Press loudly proclaimed, that such a visit was only common courtesy to the revered holder of a sacred office to which he was appointed by the National Assembly itself, and that those who neglected this duty were wanting in *savoir-vivre*. The attitude of Angora towards the Khalif and the institution of the Khalifate is one of the most inexplicable features of present-day Turkey. The separation of the Sultanate from the Khalifate was a bold stroke—many think an unjustifiable risk from the point of view of Turkey's predominance in Islam; the change, however, caused surprisingly little reaction throughout the world of Islam, and that fact has caused many wise men to modify their views concerning the danger of a united aggressive Islam world. Not content with this, the present leaders of Turkey seem determined to bring out into the limelight their secret aspiration, which is to use the office of Khalif to forward their scheme of subjecting the whole Islamic world to the political secular authority of the Grand National Assembly. The attitude of the People's Party to Reouf Bey and the recent raw declarations of Fethi Bey on the subject when he arrived in Constantinople the other day, allow of no other interpretation. The policy may seem to a foreign observer rank lunacy at this stage of affairs, but perhaps the Turks know the capacity for apathy of their brother Moslems better than he can ever hope to do.

Turkey and Russia.

There is one rather important event in the economic domain which has just been made public. The Prefecture of the city has been pressing the Ministry of the Interior for some time to allow the free importation of Russian flour into Constantinople, for it is claimed that this measure would cause a fall of at least three piastres per oke in the retail price of bread, and also reduce the chances of a severe depreciation in the Turkish exchange. The Ministry has just acceded to this request, and the Head of the Bakers' Corporation states that immense orders which had been held up pending the settlement of this question have now been put through. Apart from the economic importance of this decision it has a very great bearing on the political relations between Turkey and Russia, and may be a sign that the long-drawn out negotiations between Angora and Moscow are beginning to have some tangible result.

Prohibition.

The Press propaganda against the "Dry Law" is growing stronger every day, the usual arguments being that the suppression of alcohol leads to drug-taking, that the Treasury is losing vast sums, which might be encashed on the sale of dutiable goods, and so on. The *clou* of the offensive against the Government on this score is the statement that the manufacture and the consumption of raki at Angora is going on merrily, and that the members of the Government are not taking any steps to modify the law, first, because they are afraid

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of looking foolish for having passed it such a short time ago, and secondly, because the application of the law is only partial and does not affect their own personal habits. *Il y a du vrai là-dedans.*

Jerusalem, November 22.

The "National Party."

The outstanding event of the past few weeks has been the rise of the new "Palestine Arab National Party." It is too early yet to gauge its true importance, the weight of influence it carries in the country generally, and even, strange though it may sound, the real nature of its political programme. It is a continuation—or, at least, it has taken to itself the name—of the "Moderate" party which was so much spoken of three or even four months ago, and its chief Press organ is the same—the *Mirât esh-Sharq*. The "National Party" first began to be spoken of about the time when the Arab Delegation was making an unsuccessful stay in London, and, at the same time, antagonising much of local Arab opinion, and failing utterly to raise anything but the scantiest financial support from Palestine. The "Arab Agency" proposal seemed at the time to have brought about the death of the infant party since, as described in the last correspondence published in these columns, the one apparent consequence was the *rapprochement* of the hitherto antagonistic families of the Nashashibis (supposed moderates) and Husseinis (the open supporters of the extremist faction). The Moslem-Christian Association party thereupon announced the new party to be quite dead, and Musa Kazem Pasha el-Husseini, the figure-head of the extremists, rejected the proposed Agency in the name of *all* Palestinian parties among the Arabs. And so the matter remained for a week or two.

But since then the new party has formally announced its existence in impressive terms, justified itself on the grounds of the failure of previous Arab self-styled representative bodies to bring about any improvement owing to their policy of "sterile opposition," and has now produced an elaborate memorandum containing long and well drawn-up propositions, forming a positive, constructive policy which, if it is ever applied, will affect the inner life of the Arabs from every side—economic, cultural and political. Such economic and cultural policies are not, however, new; similar proposals, in more combative form, have been published by one or other of the "Arab Congresses," but they have never materialised. The Arab has not proved himself, once he is outside the intoxicating atmosphere of Congresses when the facile passing of resolutions forms such an exhilarating pastime, at all active in promoting far-reaching internal Arab economic and educational schemes of reform.

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It still remains to be seen to what extent the new Party can oust previous claimants to speak on behalf of Palestine Arabdom, and secure for themselves the same polite—some would even say the same servile—attention which the Government seems ever to have granted to the group which runs the Moslem-Christian Association, the Arab Congresses and the Arab Executive. So far the party is still in the process of coming into being; it has had a President and a Secretary for the past fortnight, but it was only two days ago that it took to itself an address and a telephone number. The local Administration has not, of course, taken any official notice of its existence, and there is no knowing yet what the Government's attitude will be. The new party has its advantages and disadvantages from the Administration's point of view; it serves as a standing proof that the old leaders of the extremist party no longer represent the solid Arab opinion of the country, and less importance, therefore, can be attached to their claims; on the other hand the new party may be a nuisance at the present juncture when the blind-alley reached in the attempted co-operation by the Government with the Arabs seemed about to justify and compel an administration along simpler Crown Colony lines.

The New Party and Britain.

The essential difference in the policy of the new party as distinct from the old is that the former accepts the British Mandate over Palestine; and though it rejects the active pro-Zionism hitherto read into the Balfour Declaration clause in the Mandate, it still abjures all methods of boycott and non-participation in such Government measures as are aimed at the general development of Palestine (as opposed to measures which are supposed to aim at the good of the Jews only). The political principles proclaimed by the party seem, at first sight, hardly less extreme than those adopted by the extremist Arabs, and local Jewish opinion has been bitterly disappointed to find that the "Moderate party" amongst the Arabs is essentially the same, so far as the Jews are concerned, as its immoderate predecessor. Still the difference is pronounced, and this is emphasised by the violent campaign waged at the moment, by fair means and means that are far from fair, against the National party by the Arab Executive.

Leaders of the Party.

The ultimate effects of the party can only be guessed at. They have so far created a definite cleavage in the old party, both among its leaders and its adherents, and the present members of the Arab Executive are engaged in an active subterranean campaign to induce the new party to meet them and arrive at a common policy, but so far they have not been successful. The founders of the new party are well aware that such negotiations could end only in their accepting once again the leadership of the same men who have been responsible for the policy of "sterile opposition." The moving spirits of the new party are of a distinctly more interesting type than the old Arab leaders. Suleiman el Farouki et-Taji, who was elected President, is a blind philosopher, known as the Schopenhauer of the East; his learning has gained for him the respect of all the local Arab world (and even now his extremist opponents do not venture, after the manner of the ordinary local method of political controversy, to speak ill of him personally or to attribute base motives to him); the Secretary, Abdullah Effendi Mukhlis, is a learned student of Moslem history, till recently the Secretary of the Supreme Moslem Council; the prime mover of the party, one who has worked during the last two years for the formation of such a party with such a policy, and who has been the

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target of all the animosity of the Arab Executive leaders, is a certain Amor es-Salih Effendi el-Barghuthi, a young Palestinian Moslem, mainly known hitherto as a careful student of Palestinian customs and folklore. The impression may be quite wrong, but one cannot help feeling that while the older Palestine leaders struck one as fighting, mainly, for positions of political importance which threatened to be jeopardised by British policy, these present leaders leave rather the impression of being stirred more by real knowledge of the needs of their country, a more thoughtful outlook on local conditions, and a more genuine feeling of affection for their fellow Palestinians. On the other hand, there is unquestionably an element of family competition at work. So far the families most honourably regarded by the British Government in the present, and the Turkish Government in the past, have been the Husseinis and the Nashashibis; others of the famous Moslem families suffered temporary eclipse, and it is such as these —the Khaldis, the Dejanis, and the like—who now make a bid for leadership.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

THE LATE BRIG.-GEN. A. C. BAILWARD, R.A.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—To the unfeigned regret of many, a familiar figure has just disappeared, and that suddenly and unexpectedly, from Royal Geographical and Central Asian Society circles. I myself met Brigadier-General Bailward on October 31 at the lecture given before the Persia Society on the Anglo-Persian oil-fields and works, and again on November 1 at the meeting of the Central Asian Society's Dinner Club. He was then to all appearances in perfect health, and the announcement in *The Times* of November 12 of his death on the 9th came as a painful shock. During a friendship of some 23 years he had, in his reserved and undemonstrative may, made me welcome in his hospitable home; and yet now, when I come to look back on that time, I realise how very reticent he was about his own performances. Entering the Royal Artillery in 1874, he retired from it in 1905, and I am under the impression that it was after his retirement that he carried out most of his extensive travels. That he was off on a tour one generally learnt from a newspaper, in which one read that among the passengers on a P. and O. or other boat was Colonel (or Brigadier-General) Bailward. After that one heard no more of him until he reappeared in his old haunts, the R.G.S. and the C.A.S. Meantime Mesopotamia, Persia, Turkey, Near, Middle, or Far East, or possibly Africa or America had seen him. He returned from his last tour at the end of April of this year, and, when he casually mentioned to me that he had just journeyed from Baghdad to Aleppo by motor-car, I asked him to be so good as to relate his experiences in the C.A.S. Journal. That he very kindly did (Journal of 1923, Part III., pp. 243-51), and incidentally in the paper mentions that he had previously visited Aleppo three times, one being in 1909 by caravan via Deir-ez-Zor on the Euphrates. My impression is that he knew Asia Minor well, and soon after the end of the Great War I heard of his being at Meshhed, the chief town of Khorasan, the north-eastern province of Persia. It was a rare thing for him to be tempted to use his pen. He departed somewhat recently from his usual reticence in regard to certain operations in Kurdistan, about which private information had reached him, as it had also reached me. Prepared as General Bailward was to "rough it" in travel, his bachelor establishment in London was the perfection of refined comfort, and his pursuits and amusements were those of a man of thoroughly good and intellectually guided taste. He was a good sportsman, too, with gun or rod. He succumbed to an attack of pneumonia, the first symptoms of which he felt on the morning of Sunday, November 4. He was a friend valued by all who knew him, as was shown by those who in numbers attended the memorial service to him at Holy Trinity Church, Brompton, on Tuesday, November 13.—I am, etc.,

A. C. YATE.

Beckbury Hall, Shifnal. November 15.

RELIEF WORK IN MACEDONIA.

From the All-British Appeal we have received the following account of British relief work in Macedonia:—Macedonia, apart from old Greece and Thrace, has now within it about 80,000 Christian refugees from Asia Minor and Constantinople. They poured into Salonika, where there are still thousands encamped on the beach and elsewhere. A report received from one of the administrators on the spot of the All-British Appeal gives an interesting account of the efforts made to reduce the numbers of this hungry, shelterless mass of people, to whose suffering and despair is now added exposure to bitter winter weather. There is little chance of finding for them any means of supporting themselves on the coast, and they become there incapable of work through the ravages of malaria, to which their condition makes them ready victims. But as accommodation can be found for them inland, they are moved away by the railway, which runs through the valleys and hills towards Monastir. By this line the administrator lately travelled to inspect the centres from which the refugees are distributed to their ultimate homes in the scattered villages. At each of the principal stations is a camp for those who wait for the last stage of the journey, usually taken in a Greek military lorry. These camps by the railway are not happy spots. Take, for example, Sorovitch, close to Lake Ostrovo. There are 500 tents there, and nearly the same number of families are generally waiting. The local authorities are trying to arrange for a hospital of ten beds. But this must be totally inadequate, since so large a number always arrive with malaria upon them, as well as every ailment due to semi-starvation and exhaustion. On one day lately five refugees were found dead in the train on its arrival, and two more died in the tents. The food ration that it is possible to supply is seldom more than 20 ozs. of grain a day. The hope of the administrator is to establish eventually a relief train carrying up at regular intervals the food for distribution, and a travelling kitchen for the travellers and for the station camps.

From Sorovitch he visited, by motor-car, among other places, Cozana or Koshani, a town about 60 kilometres away, and 2,700 ft. above the sea, a bitterly cold spot in winter. It is the chief town of a sub-government containing 109 villages, wherein refugees are distributed. Four thousand families were passed through the camp here in six recent weeks. There are 120 tents, half of them filled with sick people, and there is one doctor to look after the 109 villages. At all these camps the need for quinine and other medical supplies is as constant as the call for food and warm clothing. Yet one must regard the move from Salonika inland as a step onwards towards independence. The people have been agriculturalists all their lives. They know how to use the ox and plough, which are available for many families, but the difficulty is to keep them alive through the winter and make them physically fit for work in the spring. All that the administrator is able at present to propose is a small kitchen for each larger village, to give to invalids three meals a week of soup or cocoa. Cozana's need for this and more is urgent, and it is only one of the districts of Macedonia. Macedonia is only one of the provinces where the refugees are congregated. There is scope for vastly more expenditure than the All-British Appeal can make at present, and it begs for donations to be sent to it at General Buildings, Aldwych, W.C.2. Old or new warm garments and blankets are also gratefully accepted by the Appeal at the New Hibernia Wharf, London Bridge, S.E., and dispatched at once to Greece.

Air Vice-Marshal O. Swann has been appointed to headquarters, Egypt, to command on arrival.

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Near East Bookshelf.

A LABOUR OF LOVE.

"AN ENGLISHWOMAN IN ANGORA." By Grace Ellison. (London: Hutchinson and Co. 18s. net.)

As an unofficial "ambassadress" to Angora, Miss Ellison, we can quite well believe, was a complete success. The Turk would have entirely belied his reputation for chivalry and courtesy if he had not been impressed by the devotion to Turkey of this gifted and intrepid woman, who was ready to face the worst hardships and the personal discomfort entailed in a visit to Angora, in order to convince the Turks whom she met that the British people were not actuated by the hostility to them that the attitude of the British Government suggested. Whether Miss Ellison will be equally successful in her attempt to interpret the new Turkey to English readers remains to be seen. In these matters, it is to be feared, the characteristics of the race for business hard-headedness are likely to assert themselves, leaving little room for emotions which may often be far more creditable. Thus when our author, gazing out over the mountain-tomb of Timourlin, seems to hear a voice cutting through the chill air: "Here beginneth a new Turkey, the democrat of democracies," the average Englishman will be apt to think of Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha, President of the Turkish Republic, President of the Ministerial Council, President of the National Assembly, President of the only party represented in that Assembly, and will wonder where in the new dispensation of things autocracies end and democracies begin.

Anglo-Turkish relations can be summed up very briefly. There has always been a strong national liking in Great Britain for the Turks which has continually found expression in official policy, and has been proof against the worst Turkish excesses, however much they may have pained the national conscience. The action of the Turks in entering the War against us was entirely unjustifiable—in spite of our seizure of the two Turkish vessels on order in England, and in spite of any other excuses urged on Turkey's behalf. From that point on until the signature of the Treaty of Lausanne it is better to draw a veil over the course of events rather than to attempt to balance accounts between the two countries. Miss Ellison emphasises the Malta detentions and the landing of the Greeks at Smyrna; other people will want to lay stress only on the fate of our Kut prisoners, and on the experiences of Greeks and Armenians in Asia Minor. In the circumstances it is better not to try to prove the Turks a race of angels or supermen and the British as incapable of doing right. The British may stand to benefit from being shown their mistakes, but with all the good will in the world for the Turks we are certain that they will derive no advantage from being encouraged to regard themselves as the salt of the earth. By all means help them to get rid of erroneous ideas about the British, and most probably Miss Ellison in Angora achieved much in this direction. We should like to think that her book would help the Turks in the eyes of the ordinary Englishman. To be quite sure that it will we should have to know to a nicety just how far the cult of popular newspapers has left him with a taste for undiscriminating propaganda and for pictures in which the colour is applied with a very lavish brush.

It is well that such a book as this should have been written by an Englishwoman, and we hope that many who find it difficult to picture the inhabitants of Turkey other than as Bashi-Bazouks will read it. All nations presumably have to admit shortcomings, and among Turkish failings self-deception is apt to be conspicuous. Whether our author has caught this weakness from the Turks we cannot tell. From the special angle from which she sets out to describe them her book is a useful contribution to the understanding of Turkey; but it is not, of course, the whole story.

EAST AND WEST.

"A FOOL'S HELL." By Rosita Forbes. (London: Thornton Butterworth. 7s. 6d. n-t)

Mrs. Forbes has devised a complicated plot, which is acted against a desert background, drawn with the detail that we should expect from her. But her characters are subordinated neither to the intricacies of the story nor to the Eastern atmosphere. The background is all the more effective for being kept in its proper place, and the coincidences necessary to the plot are carefully made as convincing as possible. The reader's chief interest is divided between the love of Leila and Mike Treherne, which is put to a terrible test, and the character of Kamel Bey Riddha, whose state of mind gives the book its title. This strange, unhappy creature, "who had lost much of the heritage of the generous-hearted East, without acquiring more than the fetishes of the West he scorned and envied," is drawn with thoughtful care. The fact that—in spite of our relief at the failure of his attempt to revenge himself on Mike—we cannot but pity him, shows that the author has succeeded in what she has attempted. This is the best of the novels that Mrs. Forbes has yet written.

INDIAN POLITICAL THOUGHT.

"A HISTORY OF HINDOO POLITICAL THEORIES." By U. Ghosal. (Oxford University Press. 11s. 6d. net.)

Professor Ghosal sets out to give a consecutive account of the development of political ideas in classical Indian literature. The task is an arduous one, for while there are still many differences of opinion regarding the dates of particular texts, there are also doubts as to the precise significance of some of the important technical terms. The Professor faces these difficulties squarely, but we must leave it to experts to pronounce on the value of his work. All we need say here is that the book is fully documented, that it is clearly written, and that—for a political philosopher—it may fairly be described as modest, while the absence of anything like a "foreword" will prejudice the ordinary reader in its favour.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 6 (New Style).
November 23 (Old Style).
Rabia II. 26, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Colendar.
Kislev 28, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Sybil Viscountess Rhondda is leaving for Egypt and Ceylon.

M. Titulescu, Roumanian Minister in London, has been appointed a delegate to the Council of the League of Nations.

Mr. H. B. Lees, A.M.I.C.E., Commissioner of Works, Fiji, has been appointed Director of Public Works, Palestine.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London on November 28 for Bucharest, on leave.

M. Radu T. Djuvara, Counsellor at the Roumanian Legation, and Colonel Antonesco, Military Attaché, left London on November 28 for the Continent, on leave.

Lady Emily Lutyens left for India on November 29, and will proceed to Madras for an All-India Theosophical Conference. Sir Edwin Lutyens goes out for work on New Delhi in January.

Viscount Goschen, Chairman of the Imperial Ottoman Bank and President of the Council of Foreign Bondholders, has been appointed to succeed Lord Willingdon as Governor of Madras when the latter's term of office ends in April next

The engagement is announced of Major Stewart Murray, C.I.E., Indian Army, attached Civil Service, Irak, son of the late Major Stewart Murray, Royal Artillery, and Muriel Irene, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Tilley, of Gladwyn, Putney Hill.

Mr. J. W. Bhore last Friday made over charge of the Secretaryship to the High Commissioner for India to Sir Edward Cook, late Financial Secretary to the Government of India, as an acting appointment. Mr. Bhore returns to duty in the Madras Civil Service.

Among passengers by the P. and O. Bombay express which left London last Thursday to connect with the s.s. Moldavia at Marseilles were Miss Megan Lloyd George and Sir Frederick and Lady Young. Sir L. and Lady Cussen, Lady and Miss Miller, and Sir John and Miss Harrison will embark in the Moldavia at Marseilles.

The Shah of Persia, with his suite, landed at Marseilles from the liner Lotus on November 28. Among those who were present to welcome him was the Persian Minister in Paris, Mirza Samad Khan, the Mumtaz es-Sultaneh. The Shah left for Paris by train, where he arrived the same evening.

Among those who have booked their passages on the P. and O. s.s. Mooltan for Colombo and Australia, expecting to join the boat at Marseilles on December 28, are Viscount Bangor, O.B.E., Sir Rupert and Lady Clarke, Lady Named Coleman, Lord Dunleath, D.L., J.P., and Lady Dunleath, Lt.-Col. H. M. Farmer, C.M.G., D.S.O., and H.H. the Aga Khan, G.C.V.O., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.

According to a Constantinople Exchange Telegraph Company message, the Angora Government has instructed Yussuf Kemal Bey, who has been appointed Turkish representative in London, to address himself immediately he arrives in England to the opening of negotiations for the settlement of the Mosul question. He will be assisted by Lieut.-Colonel Tewfik Bey, who has been appointed to the office of Military Councillor.

OBITUARY.

We regret to announce the death of Miss Blanche Ethel Gertrude Mimardière, who for eleven years filled the post of accountant in the offices of THE NEAR EAST. Miss Mimardière was a conscientious and cheerful worker, who never spared herself, in spite of ill-health.

Mr. Alexander Cassavetti, who died at Pinks, Shenley, Herts, on November 18, in his 70th year, was the son of Demetrius Cassavetti, a Greek merchant, a native of Thessaly, and Euphrosyne (*née* Ionides), a member of the family closely associated with Watts and Burne-Jones. He married Penelope, daughter of Sophocles Constantinidi, also a native of Thessaly.

Major H. C. Finnis, Political Officer, while motoring on November 30 near Manikhwa, in the Zhob Agency, Baluchistan, was fired at and killed by a gang of Waziris. Major Finnis received his first commission in January, 1905, and remained in military employment till January, 1912, when he was appointed Political Officer on probation. In April, 1913, he became Assistant Political Agent at Quetta, and in April, 1914, Political Agent and Deputy-Commissioner. He was on military service from November, 1914, to February, 1919. His appointment as Political Officer had been confirmed in January, 1915, and in November, 1919, he was appointed Political Agent at Zhob.

Major Finnis leaves a widow and two children, who are staying at Quetta.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1923.

NEAR EASTERN POLICIES.

Time was when it was possible to speak of an Allied policy in the Near East, even though that policy may not have evoked much enthusiasm in one or more of the countries committed to it. From the date of the Armistice, however, the attempt to correlate the plans of Great Britain, France, and Italy in regard to the Near East has been abandoned, with the single exception of the fatal move that sent the Greek Army to Smyrna. To-day our Allies pursue each his own policy without a thought for one another, unless it be to put a spoke in that other's wheel. During the present year France has come forward as the champion of militarism among Near Eastern States to the extent of granting loans mainly or in part for war material, which has to be purchased in France. Thus Poland is to receive four hundred million francs, Yugoslavia three hundred million, and Roumania one hundred million, with the prospect, if the negotiations begun are carried through to a successful issue, of a further eight hundred million. It is an axiom that all these States are in need of loans, and individually they can make out a case for "the minimum means of defence"; but in an ideal Europe no Great Power would be found to encourage any small country, certainly neither Yugoslavia nor Roumania, under existing conditions to incur the loan of a single franc for military expenditure. If the ball is started rolling in one direction, neighbouring States must follow the example set, and once more the Balkans will become the powder magazine always threatening to involve Europe in an explosion. Nowhere was the pace in regard to a separate French policy set more fiercely than in the overtures to the Turkish Nationalists; there, however, the policy quickly over-reached itself, and is for the moment subjected to the withdrawal *pour mieux sauter*. France is entirely within her rights in taking measures calculated to improve her trade: but we could wish that she would realise what a little she is called upon to deny herself in bearing in mind the wider interests of Allied unity and European peace. Italy, it is to be feared, cannot even claim the sacred cause of trade as the guiding motive in her separate Near Eastern policy. Apart from the not-unnatural desire to have Albania as a close preserve for herself, her policy would seem to have no more definite principle than a weakness for fishing in troubled waters in the hope of obtaining something to her advantage. Her relations with Yugoslavia suggest the cultivation of Bulgaria's friendship as an obvious corrective, even though Bulgarian interests require an amicable understanding with the Yugoslavs; and there can be no better way of keeping Greece permanently weak than by supporting any and every element of unrest that makes its appearance in that distracted country. Such policies, however, cannot be justified at a round-table conference, and it is clear that the cause of the world's peace suffers by the palpable disloyalty to the spirit of the Entente.

This disloyalty, it is to be feared, has been carried too far to be checked now. The question therefore, arises, What policy is Great Britain to adopt in the Near East in the face of the separate action of her Allies? It is certain that she will not follow their example and intrigue against them. The only course open to her, we are convinced, is the single-minded policy of promoting the real interests of the several countries of the Near East. In so doing she will be promoting the interests of Europe as a whole and, in the long run, her own. What is required is that the Near Eastern peoples should realise that there is one Power to whom they can turn for honest, disinterested advice, who is above the pettiness of determining her own line of action by the desire to score off a rival. It is necessary, however, that this policy should be seen to be a definite one, deliberately and regularly put into practice, and not preached merely as a cloak for indifference. There will, indeed, be little occasion for proclaiming the policy from the housetop. One of the best ways of giving effect to it is by the most careful selection of British representatives at the various capitals in order that there shall be no risk of British policy being misunderstood owing to the personal idiosyncrasies of its official exponent on the spot. It is, perhaps, not fully appreciated in Government circles how much the relations between Great Britain and minor or undeveloped States turn on the personality of the British representative. The qualifications that produce reports which are masterpieces of analysis and reasoned observation may not invariably bespeak, in the diplomatist concerned, the sympathy, tact, and interest that are required for the maintenance of successful relations with the governments and peoples in question.

The history of the Near East in recent years provides several instances of the disadvantages under which Great Britain has laboured through the habit of trying to fit round diplomatic pegs into square holes. There have been and are in existence cases of highly successful appointments, and these serve to throw into stronger relief the carelessness in selection displayed in other directions. It is no reflection on the individual diplomatist that he finds himself entirely out of sympathy with his surroundings, but it should be the strongest possible indictment of the system when such an appointment is maintained to the prejudice of British interests. Not long ago a Press message from Constantinople referred to the misgivings caused among Turks by the return of Mr. A. Ryan as First Secretary to the British Embassy. Now Mr. Ryan stands deservedly high in the diplomatic profession, but in the eyes of the Angora Government he is associated —whether rightly or wrongly matters not—with Great Britain's loyalty to the Sultan who signed the Treaty of Sèvres. The question of the Sultanate and Khalifate is by no means a closed chapter, and one result of Mr. Ryan's presence in Constantinople will be that the faintest echo of the controversy will be at once attributed to British official intrigue, and Turko-British relations will be prejudiced. The fault will not be Mr. Ryan's, but that of the system, which, without thought for British interests, requires him to go back to Constantinople until another post is available, thereby stultifying the outstanding merit of the Acting High Commissioner. Another country which ought to be receiving special attention at this time is Abyssinia, whose admission into the League of Nations has burdened her with new responsibilities. Already Belgium, by shrewd manœuvring, would appear to have constituted herself Abyssinia's mentor in economic matters. It will be a disgrace to Great Britain if the Abyssinian Government does not feel able, or is not actually encouraged, to turn to the British Legation for all the advice, help, and spontaneous friendliness of which it will stand in need in the political sphere.

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HARBOURS IN PALESTINE.

By Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Solomon, O.B.E.

The following article formed the substance of a speech delivered by Lieut.-Colonel H. J. Solomon at the third annual general meeting of the Economic Board for Palestine, held on November 21:—

In remote times, when Palestine was a populous and prosperous country, one of its most important factors was its position as a link between the Mediterranean—the sea of the ancients—and the great caravan routes to the East. Nowadays, Palestine is destined to play an even more important part than that of connecting link, a fact which is evidenced by a trans-desert motor mail from Haifa to Baghdad, which conveys letters between those two points in the short space of two and a-half days. An Arab writer has described Palestine as Bab-es-Sharg, which means the Gateway of the East, and it is from this point of view that I propose to deal with the question of harbour construction in Palestine.

The disadvantages under which Palestine labours at present through the absence of protected harbours are exceedingly heavy. Tremendous damage occurs to both imports and exports, and the cost of living is appreciably higher owing to the loss in transit and the high rates which have to be paid both for freight and insurance. It may be well asked how it is these disadvantages did not apply to a greater extent in the past than they do to-day, but it must be remembered that the ships which plied the seas in bygone centuries were very much smaller than the vessels which now cast anchor off Jaffa and Haifa, and they were consequently able to make use of the natural harbours at Athilit, Cæsarea, Yeblia, and Ascalon, and the artificial port at Acre. The erection of breakwaters and moles at those places was sufficient to guard in those days the vessels, which were of very light draught, from the prevailing winds, but, as harbours, they could not possibly serve for modern deep-draught vessels.

It follows, therefore, that the choice for a modern harbour for Palestine must be restricted to Jaffa and Haifa, where practically the whole of the overseas trade of Palestine is concentrated. It is worth while examining the comparative advantages of these two places. Taking, first of all, Jaffa: this port serves the most populous and at present the most wealthy portion of the country, an area which is destined in the near future to become more wealthy owing to the foundation and development of the many Jewish colonies which radiate from that town, and to the rapid development of the orange-growing industry, which supplies the most important item of export from Palestine. It is also the port of Jerusalem in the same way as Ostia in ancient times was the port of Rome. Against these advantages must be set the fact that it is absolutely unprotected from the prevailing winds; last year, indeed, it was impossible to load or unload vessels for eighty days owing to rough weather, and on fifteen other days it was only possible to work with the greatest difficulty. Secondly, Jaffa serves no hinterland beyond Jerusalem, and access to that city is only achieved by means of a railway with very steep gradients, which climbs its way up the Judean hills. An extension of this line, if it were possible to undertake railway construction beyond Jerusalem, would have to descend an even deeper slope until it reached the Jordan valley at a depth of 1,300 feet below the level of the sea and over 4,000 feet below the highest point it would have climbed on the way to Jerusalem.

A short journey across the plain of the Jordan would bring the railway to another steep climb up the mountains of Moab before it could reach the great hinterlands east, north-east, and south-west. Finally, there is the question of physical disadvantages. As is well known, the present harbour for lighters is protected by a rocky reef, which in rough weather is submerged by the sea. It is of interest to note that Jaffa, which has been a seaport from time immemorial, once used that rocky reef as the foundation for buildings of considerable importance. This was in the days when vessels were so small and of such light draught that they could use the protected harbour, now only of use as a harbour for lighters, as a safe anchorage for themselves. I have seen prints dating back to the seventeenth century, from which it is plain that many buildings, such as Custom houses, etc., were built on this reef. Of these there is no trace whatsoever to-day. What, however, is a matter of the greatest importance in a consideration of harbour construction at Jaffa is how far the presence of rock will prevent harbour construction on an economic basis. A certain amount of geological work has been done in connection with these rocks, though little actually is known either as to the extent to which they exist or the depths to which they go down. It would appear that they are formed by the action of the sea on the sand, and as they are formed they are destroyed by the action of the sea on the rocks. Unfortunately, no bearings or soundings have ever been taken of the waters round Jaffa, and it is impossible to say what depth of rock exists. As is well known, one of the principal items of expense in harbour construction is the dredging to the required depth. If rock dredging to any considerable extent has to be undertaken, harbour construction at Jaffa on an economic basis will be out of the question. Before leaving Jaffa there is one more physical point to be mentioned. This is the fact that there is no stone suitable for harbour construction purposes nearer than a point some sixteen miles to the east. This will naturally increase costs by adding the factor of stone transport to the other expenses.

Turning to Haifa, we find there considerable physical advantages over Jaffa. The town itself is comparatively young, and its population has grown from about 10,000 in 1904 to 25,000 in 1922. In fact, it may be said that the importance of the town really began with the construction of the Hejaz Railway, which terminates at that place. The present anchorage off Haifa is protected from all prevailing winds except the north, with the result that in 1922 there were only thirty-four days in which it was impossible to carry out any work in

ASK FOR WHITE HORSE WHISKY BY APPOINTMENT.

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comparison with eighty at Jaffa. Mount Carmel, which protects the anchorage from the south and south-west winds, is also destined to play an important part in any harbour construction which takes place at Haifa. The rock of which it is composed has been examined by experts and found suitable for the purpose of harbour construction. Consequently, a distance of only five kilometres has to be traversed from the quarry to the spot where it will be thrown into the sea to form the sub-structure of the breakwater. Nor is it in physical advantages alone that Haifa is superior to Jaffa. Haifa may be described as the doorway to the "Gate of the East." From it starts a corridor which leads across the plain of Esdraelon and up the valley of the Yarmuk, by which the great Syrian desert is attained, and thus to the land of Irak. It is, moreover, connected by means of the Hejaz Railway with the great city of Damascus to the north-east, with a population of 300,000 and a very considerable trade, and the line traverses the vast fertile plain of the Hauran, one of the principal grain-growing areas in this portion of the East. Another branch of the Hejaz Railway bifurcates from the branch already referred to at Deraa to the south of the Hauran, whence it proceeds due south into Central Arabia, terminating at the Holy City of Medina. It thus serves as the carrier of the great Moslem pilgrim traffic to the holy cities of Medina and Mecca and of the trade which flows north and south. Finally, if it were found, as is by no means unlikely, that there are minerals in paying quantities in and around the Dead Sea, these minerals could only be evacuated to the coast by means of a railway up the Jordan Valley, which would join the present Hejaz Railway at Baisan, and so reach the coast at Haifa. It will thus be readily appreciated that Haifa has considerable physical advantages over Jaffa, and, moreover, in contra-distinction to the latter port, serves large and important hinterlands to the east, north-east, and south-east, while the importance of Jaffa is confined to its being a port to the richest and most populous portion of Palestine itself.

Having thus examined various considerations which affect port construction, I will now proceed to deal with the history of the matter under the present Government of Palestine. Soon after Palestine came under the British Mandate a considerable number of schemes for the construction of harbours at both Jaffa and Haifa were laid before its advisers. These schemes were prepared by contractors of many nationalities, and it must be remembered that harbour contractors are just like any other kind of contractors in that their principal object is to make as much money as possible out of the work which they undertake. It is not surprising to learn that some of the schemes submitted were on a vast and elaborate scale, involving expenditure in some cases of many millions. These schemes would no doubt be excellent in scope for the ports of London, Hamburg, or Rotterdam, but quite out of the picture for Jaffa or Haifa, not only for their present trade, but for their trade of the next fifty years, even if the most optimistic prognostications of Palestine enthusiasts should be fulfilled. The Government felt that they must secure expert advice before any step in so vital a matter was taken. Arrangements were made, therefore, with the Colonial Office by means of which the great consulting engineer, Mr. Frederick Palmer, of the well-known firm of Rendell, Palmer, and Tritton, visited Palestine last winter and spent several weeks in examining the situation on the spot. The results of his investigations were drawn up in the form of a "Report of the Provision of Harbour Facilities for Palestine, 1923," which is the property of the Palestine Government, a copy of which, however, I have been privileged to see. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of this document and its value to Palestine. Presumably, arrangements will be made by the Palestine Government to enable copies of this report to reach those interested. In the meanwhile I will confine myself to stating the general conclusions at which Mr. Palmer arrived.

Mr. Palmer is strongly of opinion that a port is desirable at Jaffa, if it can be constructed at a capital cost in the neighbourhood of £1,000,000 sterling, expenditure to this amount being amply justified by the economies and savings which will be effected in the conduct of business at that place. He is, furthermore, of opinion that this conclusion is not affected by the question of constructing a harbour at Haifa. The losses at Jaffa during the last year have been estimated at as much as nearly £90,000, caused by the high freights due to demurrage of steamers delayed by bad weather, loss of goods in the course of discharge by sea water, damage and breakage by rough handling, and high insurance rates arising from these causes. Mr. Palmer is of opinion that interest at, say, 7 per cent., with a sinking fund at, say, 1½ per cent. on the suggested capital expenditure of £1,000,000, together with the cost of operating and repairs to the harbour, would be covered in such a way as to leave a considerable surplus by means of a tax of 2½ per cent. on imports, a small tax on orange exports, together with the rent which will be obtained by reclaimed land in the course of construction and contributions which have been promised by the municipalities of Jaffa and the adjoining Jewish township, Tel Aviv.

(*Concluded on p.* 588.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

Concessions in Turkey.

The position with regard to the Anatolian Railway concession, reference to which is made by our Constantinople Correspondent this week, remains very obscure. It has been reported that the offer of the British group has been definitely rejected, but it seems very doubtful if any decision has actually been arrived at that can legitimately be regarded as final. The course of the negotiations lends colour to the belief that the Turkish authorities are simply endeavouring to "play off" one group against the other, that, in short, the leopard has not changed his spots (an eventuality that could scarcely be expected by those who know the Turk), and that the old policy of vacillation, so familiar in pre-war days, is again in operation. If Turkey is to receive the foreign assistance that is essential in the work of reconstruction, it needs no emphasis that her policy must be framed so as to make external co-operation possible.

The Germans and Turkey.

It was only to be expected that as soon as conditions rendered it possible the Germans would address themselves again to the task of the economic penetration of Turkey, and the particulars given by our Correspondent show that they are again busily engaged in regaining their influence in that country. Numbers of Germans are now in Turkey, the German banks are reopening, German steamship services have been re-established, and, needless to say, German goods are being imported on a large scale, while last but not least, a German daily paper has recently commenced publication in Constantinople. Circumstances have done much to smooth the path of the Germans in Turkey, and history shows very plainly the use they are likely to make of their opportunity if they have the chance which will only be given them if British firms and traders fail, or are unable, to play the part they should in the development of the New Turkey.

The Rising Rupee.

For some time the rupee has been pursuing an upward course, and it now stands at about 1s. 5¼d. This is, of course, the period when India's trade normally develops activity, and the movement of the rupee reflects the strength of the demand that has arisen for India's produce. Cotton is the commodity in chief request, and India is benefiting from the sharp rise in the price, but there is also a demand for other staple produce. The effect of this trend on the Indian market should be pronounced, and it is possible to anticipate with some confidence a marked increase in the orders for British goods in the near future. There have already been significant signs of this in increased inquiries for textile goods. For the past two years and more India's imports have been on a very restricted scale owing to a variety of factors, none of which now operate to the extent that they did, and while an abnormal expansion of trade is not to be looked for the revival may be sufficient to make a considerable difference to Lancashire.

Anglo-Persian Dividend.

Adverse trade conditions and the fall in the prices of oil products have naturally had an effect on the results of the great oil companies, and the announcement of a dividend of 10 per cent., as compared with 20 per cent. on the ordinary shares of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company occasioned little surprise. The reduction, it may be pointed out, does not indicate such a reduction of profits as it would appear to do, as the dividend is paid on a capital which has been substantially increased, and the carry-forward shows a slight increase at £1,777,788.

Near Eastern Banking.

The Commercial Bank of the Near East was only formed in October, 1922, and its recently issued report for the six months ended June 30 is therefore its first for a full half-year. The previous report, which was issued at the end of the year, showed a balance of expenditure over income of £396. For the past six months the profits amounted to £1,400, and the deduction of the amount mentioned leaves £1,000 to be carried forward. While the profit is small the figures of the balance-sheet show a most satisfactory expansion, and it is obvious that the bank's business is developing on satisfactory lines. It may be noted that the report states that progress has continued since the end of the half-year, "and the results of the current half-year are expected to show a considerable improvement."

The Anglo-Egyptian Bank.

At the general meeting of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank the chairman, Mr. R. H. Foà, gave an interesting survey of the commercial and political conditions in the spheres of the bank's operations which he visited during the year. He stated that he found conditions in the various countries varying very much from the normal, and that he thought the promise of recovery in some of them was far greater than in others. He indicated the importance to Egypt of the development in the cotton position, but as regards the general political situation he expressed himself in rather guarded terms. Mr. Foà was greatly impressed by the progress that has been made in the Sudan. "The absolute necessity of producing within the Empire

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itself cotton sufficient for its needs," he pointed out, "is destined to make the Sudan within a few years a very rich country." Turning to Palestine, Mr. Foà said that while the country possessed "a small strip of very fertile land, it is in a great part incapable of producing large crops." It is his opinion that if capital is forthcoming to develop railways and hotels, Palestine would become a great centre of pilgrimage and touring. Given inducements to stay in that country, "Palestine," he added, "would be able to do as Italy has done for the last hundred years and make a handsome living for itself out of visitors, who are deterred from going there because of the lack of good hotels."

COMMENTATOR.

IRAK AIR MAIL FEE REDUCED.

The Postmaster-General announces that the special fee payable, in addition to ordinary postage, on letters for Irak and Northern and Western Persia intended for onward transmission from Egypt by the fortnightly Cairo-Baghdad air service, has been reduced to 3d. for each ounce or part of an ounce. Letters intended for transmission by the air route must bear the official blue Air Mail label, or be plainly marked in manuscript: "By Air Mail."

The East Indian Railway Company recommends a dividend from the surplus profits account of 6s. 3d. per cent. on the deferred annuity capital and deferred annuity capital class "D," in addition to the guaranteed interest of £2 per cent. for the half-year ended January 31, 1924, and 3s. 9d. per cent. compensation paid by the Secretary of State for India on account of income-tax.

We have received from the Standard Commercial Trading Corporation a map descriptive of the tobacco-growing districts of the Near East. Excellently produced, the map shows at a glance all the regions devoted to this cultivation—and there are very many of them—all of which are detailed in a useful index. The map will be invaluable to all who are engaged in the extensive tobacco industry.

At a general meeting of the members of the British Overseas Banks Association, held on November 30, the following were elected to form the committee for the ensuing year:—Mr. Leslie Couper, Bank of British West Africa; Mr. T. J. Finnie, London and Brazilian Bank; Mr. C. H. Hewett, Colonial Bank; Mr. E. M. Janion, English Scottish and Australian Bank; Mr. H. D. C. Jones, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation; Mr. E. C. Macleod, Bank of Nova Scotia; Mr. S. F. Rogers, Imperial Bank of Persia; Mr. Francis Shipton, Standard Bank of South Africa; Mr. T. R. Whitley, Royal Bank of Canada; Mr. Arthur Willis, National Bank of New Zealand. Mr. Arthur Willis (National Bank of New Zealand) was elected chairman of the committee, and Mr. Francis Shipton (Standard Bank of South Africa) was elected honorary secretary and treasurer.

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HARBOURS IN PALESTINE

(Continued from p. 586.)

With regard to Haifa, Mr. Palmer is of opinion that the construction of a port there is both desirable and necessary, not only for the trade now carried on, but also for its potential value in serving the vast hinterlands which have already been referred to. Unlike Jaffa, soundings and borings have already been made at Haifa, and Mr. Palmer was, therefore, in a position to draw up a definite plan for a harbour at Haifa, which he estimates could be constructed at a cost well within £1,000,000, including Custom House, craneage, railway lines, and an equipment sufficient for the trade of to-day, and any extension which may reasonably be expected within the next few years. With regard to the financing of such construction, Mr. Palmer found that the position was not quite so favourable as at Jaffa, principally because Haifa has no export trade in oranges, and also owing to the fact that the Municipality was not in a position to make as large a contribution to the expenses as is the case at Jaffa and Tel Aviv. In order, therefore, to cover interest and sinking fund charges, together with cost of operating and repairs to the harbour, an *ad valorem* duty of 3 per cent. instead of 2½ per cent. would be necessary on imports.

A question of special interest is; What are the Palestine Government going to do now that they have Mr. Palmer's report in their hands? I feel sure that the money necessary for at least one of those projects could be found, provided that suitable conditions obtained. Preliminary steps have already been taken to ascertain the views of the Government of Palestine on these points, and it is to be hoped that that Government will be as eager to open negotiations as I have reason to believe the Palestine Corporation is. What the basis of a Government concession for harbour construction would be it is premature to discuss at this moment, but I venture to suggest that the following lines might reasonably form a suitable basis on which to start negotiations:—(1) A concession for a period of 50 to 75 years. (2) The plans to be drawn up by a consulting engineer and approved by the Government of Palestine. (3) Construction to be undertaken by contractors as the result of competitive tender based on the schedule of quantities drawn up by the consulting engineer. (4) The harbour to be controlled by a board representing the financial interest, the local and municipal interests, with, of course, Government representatives with certain powers of veto. (5) The finance group to be authorised to levy a tariff on imports and in certain cases exports, and to make the necessary charges for wharfage, pilotage, craneage, harbour dues, etc. (6) The finance group to be the owners in perpetuity of all land reclaimed by the constructional works. (7) At the end of the period of concession, of 50 to 75 years, the harbour, together with all railway and other approaches, to be handed over complete to the Government with all charges extinguished. The financial group would then remain the owners of such reclaimed land which did not form part of the actual harbour and its approaches.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

TURKEY.

Constantinople, November 20.

The Anatolian Railway.

The competition for the coveted concession for the exploitation of the Anatolian Railway is not yet over, although it had appeared so. When the proposed agreement which had been reached by Moukhtar Bey and M. Huguenin for his group came up to the Assembly for ratification, a strong opposition manifested itself, and M. Huguenin's backing and the extent of his powers were both called in question. A number of obviously inspired articles have appeared in the Press to prove that the offer made by the all-British group is much more generous, and, not to be outdone, Colonel Fonjallaz and his Swiss backers have borrowed a little of Mr. Ricketts' thunder and are offering the Turkish Government a deal very much on the same lines as his. At the moment it looks as if the Turkish Government were going to make a good thing out of it.

The Chester Concession.

Another famous concession seems to be trailing into a comedy. Mr. Kennedy, the holder of the Chester Concession, was determined to endeavour to comply with the somewhat unreasonable condition to which the promoters had already agreed —namely, that work on the Samsoun-Sivas Railway should commence not later than November 15. According to the Turkish papers, he sent up to Samsoun an engineer or two with a collection of picks and shovels, and, after a preliminary ceremony, including the immolation of sheep, locally recruited workmen proceeded to dig a certain number of holes in the ground. The Government has, however, refused to take this seriously, and has apparently put a pistol to the head of Mr. Kennedy's representatives, which is timed to go off irrevocably on November 25; if by that time he cannot satisfy them that he disposes of sufficient financial support to carry through the work, bang goes the concession.

Germans and Turkey.

While on the subject of the economic development of Turkey it may be pertinent to draw attention to the fact that since the Allied evacuation there are numerous signs of interest in Turkish affairs on the part of the Germans. It is well known that ever since the Mudros Armistice Germans have been leaking through to Turkey under one cover or another, German goods have been imported into Turkey through various neutral countries, and, in general, the Germans have been doing their best against grave obstacles to keep their business connections alive and to prepare for the time when they might be able to take their place openly among the competitors for the trade of the Levant. That time has now come, and the catastrophic conditions in their own country have made them much less exacting concerning the conditions and limitations imposed by the Turkish Government than are the merchants and traders of Allied and neutral countries. The German steamship services in the Levant have been resumed, their insurance companies are doing their best to profit by the withdrawal of the British companies, their banks are reopening, and it is already noticeable that a considerable number of Germans are to be met in the streets and public resorts.

Not only that, but a German daily paper has just commenced publication, the *Tuerkischer Lloyd*, which is presumably a lineal descendant of the pre-War *Osmanischer Lloyd*. It is not a pretentious affair, but already in its fourth number yesterday it published an editorial outlining a suggestion for creating a free port out of Constantinople and its area, which, apart from its value as an indication of Germany's needs and of the probable direction of her propaganda in Turkey, is the most interesting and thought-provoking practical plan which has appeared in the Constantinople Press for the last five years. The article, postulating the maintenance of the political capital of the new Turkey at Angora, recognises the arguments in favour of the choice as sound as long as adequate measures are taken to develop Constantinople as a commercial and industrial capital. The transfer of the capital has, however, inflicted a severe blow on Constantinople, which, even without that, is in the throes of a commercial crisis. The one and only way to restore the city's prosperity and to develop the potentialities of her unique situation for the benefit of the city and the country is to create a free port. The result of such a measure would be that industrial undertakings would transfer their works from Europe nearer to the source of their raw materials, where also they would have the advantage of cheaper labour. The Turkish Government would limit the establishment of such industrial enterprises to the free zone of Constantinople and erect a Customs barrier between that zone and the rest of Turkish territory, but even then the Anatolian consumer would be infinitely better off than he is now, since now he has to pay for goods manufactured out of his own raw materials a price which includes transport to and from Western Europe and a cost of manufacture which is higher than it would be in Constantinople. Further, the establishment of industrial enterprises on a large scale here would automatically solve the question of unemployment and the serious crisis which is worrying the larger houses and destroying the small traders. It would also in course of time train up a generation of skilled workmen and business men who would be of permanent value to the country in helping it to hold its own in the politico-commercial sphere.

Such is the alluring picture presented by the Germans with considerable skill to the naïve and needy Turks as the solution of their most urgent problem. The underlying implication is obvious, and although the plan may at first sight appear a little far-fetched and Utopian, it would be unwise to dismiss it with a deprecatory shrug.

The Budget.

The Budget Commission of the G.N.A.T. has distributed among the Deputies the estimates of expenditure in the financial year 1924. The estimated total expenditure amounts to £T68,276,582, of which £T22,644,000, or 33 per cent., is earmarked for national defence, £T9,500,000 for pensions, £T3,645,149 for military factories, and £T2,662,566 for the navy—i.e., 56.4 per cent. of the total expenditure is earmarked for services more or less intimately connected with the Army and Navy.

Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce that the temporary restrictions on the payment of the coupons of the Royal Roumanian Government Four and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1913, due October, 1923, have now been removed, and coupons from bonds the numbers of which appear on what is known as the "Schroder List" on the Stock Exchange may now be presented for payment as formerly. Messrs. Schroder have also received instructions to pay coupons from all British-owned Roumanian bonds stamped by the Roumanian Commission in London, notwithstanding that the numbers of these bonds do not appear on the "Schroder List."

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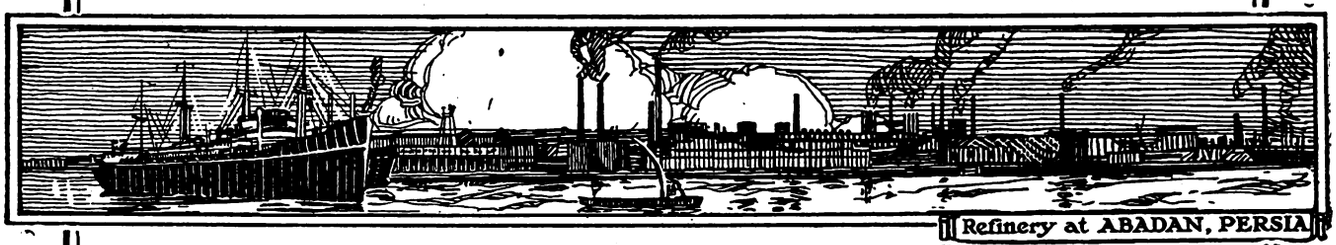

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The range of products manufactured by the Company and its subsidiaries includes :—

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HULL	BORDEAUX	MARSEILLES
JARROW (Tyne)	CALCUTTA	MELBOURNE
LEITH	CHRISTIANIA	MOMBASA
LIVERPOOL	COLOMBO	ORAN
MANCHESTER	COPENHAGEN	PORT SAID
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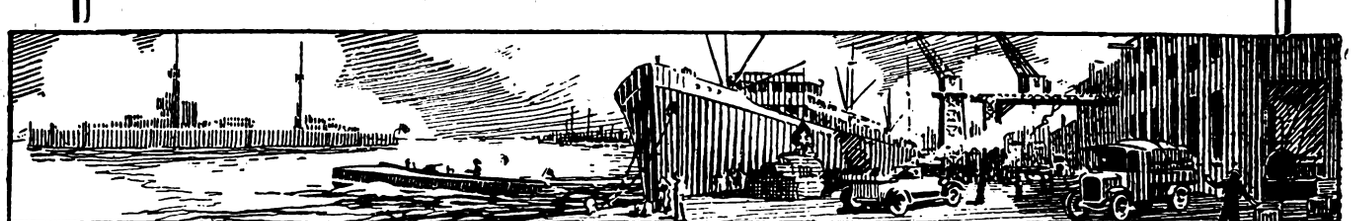
SUNDERLAND	DUNKIRK	SYDNEY
SWANSEA		

Other Stations are in the course of erection.

British in Capital, Management and Policy



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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

COMMERCIAL MOTOR EXHIBITION.—II.

One of the most interesting stands was that of Messrs. Citroen Cars, Ltd., who showed a number of their well-known productions. Their exhibits included a 7.5 h.p. van and a number of 11.4 h.p. vehicles. The 7.5 h.p. type, a useful looking little car with a 2½-cwt. load carrying capacity, has a 4-cylinder engine, 55 mm. bore by 90 mm. stroke, thermo-syphon water circulation, magneto ignition, three forward speed gearbox with central change and helical gear final drive. The van is fitted with a dynamo lighting and electric starting set. The 11.4 h.p. delivery van has a carrying capacity of 7 cwt. It has a 4-cylinder engine 68 mm. bore by 100 mm. stroke, the chassis details being much the same as those described above. Two more 11.4 h.p. vans are fitted with the Kegresse-Hinstin endless load attachment which was used in crossing the Sahara. One of the vehicles is shown on a rough desert surface in a way which plainly demonstrates the utility of the device in overcoming the obstacles presented by really difficult country. These vans have an extra large capacity radiator, and there is a two-speed change gear operated from the driver's seat, giving with the gearbox six forward speeds and two reverse.

Messrs. The Four Wheel Drive Lorry Co., Ltd., showed a 250-300 gallon fire engine, which is one of two on order for the Egyptian Government. The vehicle has a 4-cylinder engine, 4¾-in. bore by 5½-in. stroke, and has a four-speed gearbox. The body is built of teak, and the chassis is fitted with a Dennis-Taminir turbine pump, and 40-in. by 8-in. pneumatic tyres. This engine can be driven over desert sands or across ploughed fields even, and its utility in regions where roads are indifferent or do not exist is obvious. The other exhibits included a lorry, complete with trailer. The lorry has a 4-cylinder engine, 4¾-in. bore by 5½-in. stroke, and has a three-speed gear box. Both the lorry and the trailer are fitted with a three-way hydraulic tipping body.

Messrs. W. Beardmore and Co., Ltd., showed their 25-30 cwt. chassis which attracted a good deal of attention. The engine has a 3⅛-in. bore by 4¾-in. stroke, there is pump water circulation, forced feed lubrication, and variable magneto ignition. The back axle is of the full floating type, and there is overhead worm drive.

Messrs. the Austin Motor Co., Ltd., had a large range of their well-known cars on view, including two 7 h.p. light vans, a 7 h.p. taxicab, a 12 h.p. light 10-cwt. van, a 20 h.p. 16-cwt. van, and a 20 h.p. ambulance. The 7 h.p. vans look the ideal car for light commercial work. One of the vehicles exhibited is designed for the commercial traveller. It is a one-seater, and there are double doors at the upper part of the back. The other van, which is intended for tradesmen, has large double doors at the back, and is fitted with shelves. The "Twelve" and "Twenty" vans are in every way exceedingly fine productions. Particulars of the chassis construction have already been given in these columns. The "Twelve" has a platform area 5 ft. 7 in. long by 3 ft. 8 in. wide, while the larger van has a body space 6 ft. 5 in. long by 4 ft. 2 in. wide.

Messrs. Halley's Industrial Motors, Ltd., had a number of exhibits, including a 500-600 gallon turbine motor fire engine, a refuse tipping wagon, and a 20-seater single-decked omnibus. The 75-95 h.p. fire engine has a 6-cylinder engine 5 in. bore by 6½ in. stroke, a single-plate clutch, and there is a four-speed and reverse gear-box. The fire engine is fitted with an auxiliary pump for first aid purposes, and dual ignition is employed. The 25 h.p. refuse tipping wagon has an engine 4 in. bore by 5¼ in. stroke. It has a single-plate clutch, a four-speed and reverse gear-box, and a worm-driven back axle. It is fitted with a special all-steel hand tipping body with sides, 13 ft. by 7 ft. by 1 ft. 3 in., and its capacity is 150 cubic ft.

Messrs. Albion Motor Car Co., Ltd., showed a 24 h.p. 19-seater charabanc, a 24 h.p. 21-seater bus, a 24 h.p. 30-cwt. van, a 32 h.p. 3-ton van, and a 24 h.p. 2-ton lorry. One of the most interesting of these exhibits was the 32 h.p. van. It has an engine 4½ in. bore by 5 in. stroke, the chassis weighing 48½ cwt. The body is of the box-van type with a roller shutter fitted at the rear.

Coupons due December 1 on Calcutta Improvement Trust 6 per cent. Sterling Debenture Loan of 1922 will be paid at the Imperial Bank of India, 5, Whittington Avenue, E.C.3.

Kingdom of Roumania 4 per cent. External Loan of 1922 coupons, due December 1, should be presented for payment at Helbert Wagg and Co., 37, Threadneedle Street, E.C., between 11 and 2.

Mr. Felix J. C. Pole, general manager of the Great Western Railway, who left London on November 13 for the Sudan, will visit Atbara, Port Sudan, Suakin, Kassala, Haiya, Khartoum, the Makwar Dam, El Obeid, Halfa, and Assuan.

The Commercial Secretary at Constantinople has forwarded to the Department of Overseas Trade a copy of the "Cahier des Charges," drawn up and adopted by the Department of National Economy, which will be applied to all mining concessions granted in the future in Turkey.

Mr. Harry Cotterell, of Ellery, Waterloo Park, Waterloo, Liverpool, retired African merchant, lately chairman of the African and Eastern Trade Corporation, Ltd., and other companies, who died on September 1, aged 81, left estate of the gross value of £90,808, with net personalty £89,519.

It is announced by N. M. Rothschild and Sons that bonds of the Ottoman 3½ per cent. (1894) Loan, drawn for repayment on October 15, 1923, may now be presented for payment at New Court, St. Swithin's Lane. The bonds must bear all the coupons subsequent to October 15 last, otherwise the amount of the coupons missing will be deducted from the principal to be repaid.

The old South Indian industry of printing and painting on cotton, founded centuries before the arrival of Europeans in India, is rapidly disappearing (says an American Consular report). The processes and patterns in use to-day show but minor changes, with the exception of the adoption of the cheaper aniline dyes for the old vegetable colours. Nearly all the workmen inherit their trade. The competition of labour from Europe and natural mortality are two of the factors in the relinquishment of the industry.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Very Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in their report for the week ended November 23, state:—Since our last report the futures market has been again very firm. The market has continued to move on its own initiative, and prices have secured a further substantial advance. New York is very much quieter, and whereas the advance there on the week is but $1.05 January Sakel has gone up $5.30 and December Ashmouni $3.85. We attribute the rise of our market to speculative purchases and to the covering by export houses of their previous week's heavy sales to spinners. The demand from abroad has this week run on much more conservative lines. As a matter of fact, we think that whatever new business has passed has been for unhedged cotton which holders were prepared to dispose of at prices much below the general market. Ashmounis have been less active than usual and their difference with Sakel has further widened. Naturally, Ashmouni competes to a certain extent with American cotton and its price is generally affected by the value of the latter. The American Ginners' report, published on 21st inst., with a figure of B/s 8,369,000 against B/s 8,876,000 last year has been interpreted here as very bullish and has further stimulated our local speculators' belief in higher prices as the season advances and as the shortage of supplies is felt to a greater extent. At the third November tender 5,250 krs. dockets were issued. We have had record arrivals from the interior this week, which, however, have not weighed on the market, as interior merchants do not show great anxiety to sell or hedge their cotton. We still maintain a favourable opinion of the market, but strong reactions are possible, particularly in view of the high level which prices have now reached and of the fact that speculators have committed themselves heavily on the bull side. The week's receipts amount to 471,608 krs. against exports 251,572 krs.; the stock stands at 2,177,395 krs.

Spot: A good business has been done at Minet-el-Bassal this week and sales amount to about 34,100 bales, of which we estimate B/s 21,400 Sakellarides, B/s 12,400 Uppers, B/s 100 Brown and Pillion and 200 B/s White. Arrivals are heavy and though exports continue on a good scale, the stock shows a fair increase and is now well over two million kantars. There is still no pressure by holders to sell, actual cotton being generally well held but we do not think there is quite the same eager demand for cotton by exporters as there was earlier this month and it seems as if commitments for near shipment have been covered. Spinners generally do not as yet seem to be following the advance or entering into new business at present levels.

Sakellarides: All styles have been dealt in but the medium qualities still constitute the bulk of the demand. Prices of spot against contract are irregular. From Good Fair to Good they are without change, Fully Good is a little easier, though Extra has been sold at very high premiums; Fully Fair and below are distinctly cheaper, as they are not in such good demand as other qualities.

Uppers: All grades have been dealt in. The demand for medium grades continues good. Prices of spot against contracts from Good Fair upwards are without much change. Below Good Fair they are distinctly easier, these qualities being somewhat neglected at present.

Brown and Pillion: A small business has been done. Spot prices are about unchanged for Good Fair and above, but easier for the lower qualities.

White: A moderate business has been done at unchanged rates. Cotton is scarce and buyers have to pay full prices for their requirements.

Crop 1923: Cotton continues to be rushed to the ginning centres, and in all the ginning factories the congestion is great. The daily arrivals in Alexandria will continue to be large as all the factories are working at full speed. Small growers are in general satisfied with present prices and sell willingly.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Further Advance in Egyptian.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended November 28:—

Egyptian Spot.—During the early part of the week our market showed a distinctly hesitating tendency, and with liquidation taking place in the futures market, and only a moderate demand in evidence on the spot, prices began to fluctuate, and a certain amount of nervousness became apparent, particularly amongst speculators. Later on a much better tone developed principally on account of "bullish" trade reports from Manchester, with the result that the previous decline was not only all recovered, but we close to-day with another substantial advance to add to the high level attained during the previous week. Whilst still holding "bullish" views, we would like to draw the attention of our friends to one feature of the situation, namely, that in spite of the admitted strength of the cotton position as a whole, and the optimistic reports received from Manchester, the trade demand here has actually fallen off this week, and there is no doubt that the high prices now ruling are acting as a check on many would-be buyers of Egyptian cotton. Of course, it is quite possible for prices to be maintained, or even forced higher, by speculation alone, but such a market, as we have seen in the past, is very susceptible to outside influences, and much caution is advisable when dealing in it.

On the whole, Sakellaridis has been in fair request, the tendency on the part of buyers being to keep as close to the future contract as possible. One or two cheap sellers have appeared, and some reasonable lots have been picked up in the neighbourhood of 50 on January contracts. Generally speaking, cotton, for which anything over "100 on" was being asked, has been regarded askance. Uppers have not been so much in evidence, and the tendency here has been for the basis to ease somewhat. Good Uppers changed hands here to-day at from 24¼d. to 24½d. per lb. A small inquiry for White cotton continues. Brown, Pilion, and Sudan cotton have all been comparatively neglected, particularly the last named. C.i.f. business has been reduced to stagnation by the high prices ruling in Alexandria, which is the more remarkable as the futures market there stands at nearly 1d. discount with our market in Liverpool. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending November 23 have been returned as 5,925 bales. Estimated sales, 2,300 bales Egyptian. No Sudan reported. Quotations of Upper show an advance of 35 points, those of Sakel 140 points, and those of Brown 85 points. F.G.F. Sakel to-day 26.05d.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Strength of Raw Material.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 1, states:—

The feature of the cotton trade during the past week has again been the strength of the raw material. Although it was believed in many quarters here that the effect of the small American crop had been fully discounted some time ago prices have continued, with only slight breaks, to advance day by day. What the relative influences of speculation and real trade demand may be it is very difficult to determine, but there is little doubt that considerable speculation is going on. For the moment sellers here can operate at prices which to them are fairly satisfactory when their raw cotton or yarn was purchased at the lower prices recently prevailing, and there may almost be said to be eagerness on the part of buyers abroad to secure such supplies. What will happen, however, when raw cotton becomes stabilised and the much dearer goods begin to find their way to the actual consumer is a matter on which grave doubts are expressed.

Yarn.—For the reasons given above quite a fair business has been done by some spinners. Generally speaking, however, whilst making every effort to improve their position they find themselves unable to obtain the present cost of production, and the continued advance in raw cotton has made negotiations very difficult. The result of a ballot taken by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners on the subject of continuing organised short time in the American section has resulted in a decision against it. The decision is not of great importance, since many mills had, in fact, been disregarding the Association's ruling in the matter for some time past.

Cloth.—Favourably situated manufacturers have been able to book good orders, but, generally speaking, the inquiry, although large, has been at prices which are now impossible. The turnover for Egypt—which country stands to profit greatly from the higher prices which it is obtaining for its cotton—continues to improve. A certain amount of business has been done for India at rates which a little time ago would have been thought absurd, but not much transpires for China or South America.

Raw Cotton.—There is nothing to add under this heading to what has been already mentioned above. Closing prices are as follows:—American fully middling, 21.72d.; Egyptian fully good fair, 26.70d.

A Blue Book, containing the Budget of the Governor-General of India in Council for 1923-24 has been published by H.M. Stationery Office (number, 128; price 7s. 6d.).

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Company Meeting.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN BANK.

Cotton Growing in the Sudan.

The thirty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., was held on November 28 at the Bank, 37 to 39, King William Street, E.C., Mr. Raoul H. Foà (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. H. H. Mallet) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, said: Business throughout the world has been at a very low ebb, and your directors are pleased to be able to distribute the same dividend as last year.

It is a time-honoured custom with us that one of your directors should each year visit the different spheres of operations of your bank, and this year it fell to my lot to make an extended trip through Egypt, the Sudan, Palestine, and a portion of Trans-Jordania. Naturally, I found conditions in these countries varying very much from the normal, but the promise of recovery in some of them was far greater than in others. In Egypt, as you know, a new constitution has been proclaimed, and the dominance of England in that country is not what it has been for many years. Trade in Egypt is in the same condition as it is in most parts of the world, but Egypt has the advantage of producing as its staple source of revenue cotton, which is, and promises to be for some time, in very short supply. Under these conditions Egypt has suffered much less than many other countries. Of course, the halcyon times of 1920 are past and reaction has set in. In that year agricultural land in Upper Egypt, to my knowledge, changed hands at £700 an acre; it is now worth anything from £100 to £150 per acre, a much more reasonable figure. Labour in price has come down very nearly to what it was before 1914. At that time a fellah working at the Shaduf in water-raising earned about 6d. a day. During the war his wage rose to 3s. a day, and now he gets about 10d. But the change which most struck me was the difference of attitude of the fellah to his landlord. Before the war he accepted what treatment his landlord chose to mete out to him uncomplainingly, and often without seeming protest. Now the absentee landlord often has difficulty in getting his rents at all. This, I suppose, is the case in many lands.

The cotton crop of Egypt is estimated this year at about 6,000,000 kantars, and I have not so far heard that the insect pests which frequently attack cotton are in great evidence.

In the Sudan I was struck by the change which has come over that land in the four years that had elapsed since my last visit to it. England has come forward and supplied large sums of money to be expended in the making of dams, the diversion of water channels and the construction of railways. The absolute necessity of producing within the Empire itself cotton sufficient for its needs is destined to make the Sudan within a few years a very rich country. I speak of it as a whole. Of course, there are arid deserts in the centre and miasmatic swamps on the Red Sea littoral, which must of necessity remain unfruitful, but the delta between the Blue and the White Nile and the land near the River Gash—that is to say, the Kassala cotton fields—and that near the Barrakat at Tokar are destined sooner or later to produce great wealth.

One of the difficulties which was foreseen on the establishment of cultivation in the Sudan was the absence of labour, for the Sudanese is not by nature a working man. However, an unexpected source of labour supply has arisen: the Felatas, a tribe of Mohammedans from the West Coast of Africa, who for centuries have been in the habit of tramping across the Sudan on their way to Mecca, have found that the conditions of life are more agreeable for them in the Sudan than elsewhere, and they are now settling in large numbers in various villages. They are peaceable and hardworking, and it is considered that they will go a long way to solving the problems of labour in that country.

In Palestine, unfortunately, religious and racial difficulties are retarding the advance which should, under beneficent British influence, have done much more than has been the case. The influx of Jews from Russia, Roumania, etc., has in some instances been of unqualified advantage; in others the benefits of their presence have not been so evident. They have built two new towns, one at Tel-Aviv in Jaffa, and one at Haifa, and these have sprung up amid sordid surroundings as towns which might be pointed out as examples of planning and management by any nation with pride. It is not to be forgotten that Palestine is a very small country, about the size of Wales, and a country which, although possessing a small strip of very fertile land, is, in a great part, incapable of producing large crops. If capital were forthcoming to develop railways and hotels in Palestine it would, in my opinion, become an enormous centre of pilgrimage and tourists.

The report and accounts were unanimously adopted, and a dividend of 10s. per share, free of income-tax, was declared, making a total distribution of 15 per cent. for the year.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 21).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Macharda for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 8); s.s. Imani for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 8); s.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 19).

British India Line.—S.s. Mashobra for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 7); s.s. Durenda for Colombo, Madras and Calcutta (London, December 8); s.s. Dalgoma for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22); s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 25).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Malcolm for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, December 13).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Chester for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 17).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, December 29).

Ellerman Bucknall and Strick Lines.—S.s. Kurmark for Persian Gulf (London, December 12).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Tasso for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, December 12).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29); a steamer, closing on or about January 19, for all ports up to and including Constantza.

Moss Line.—S.s. Sitra for Malta and Alexandria (Liverpool, December 8).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 28); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 18).

According to the reports which have reached here (says a Reuter message from Malta), the Corinth Canal, owing to the landslip, will not be available for traffic for six months.

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SPECIAL MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from recent reports received by the Imperial Ottoman Bank :—

HAIFA, October 27.

Business has been normal during this week, but the prices have, nevertheless, fallen as a result of the fluctuations in the French and Italian exchanges.

BASRAH, November 3.

Successive offers made by the London market for purchases of dates have been executed at a profit for our exporters. The import market has been rather quiet.

MOSUL, November 3.

The heavy rains which fell during the week have been favourable to the first sowings.

HAIFA, November 3.

The cereal market has been lively this week owing to demands from Syria and exports to France. Prices have remained firm.

TRADE OF BAHREIN ISLANDS.

The slight revival of trade which occurred in 1921-22 may be said to have continued generally during 1922-23, owing, as usual, to the increased pearl trade (says the British Political Agent at Bahrein, in his annual report). Imports show an increase in value of £1,001,882 and exports an advance of £309,574 as compared with the year 1921-22. The increase in the value of imports was mainly due to the movement of specie, consequent on the improvement in the pearl market, and to a certain extent to the heavy import of American oil. Motor accessories to the value of £1,463 were also imported during the period under review. Although the total value of imports, £2,454,571, is the highest recorded for twelve years, there was a decrease of 15.2 per cent. in the value of general merchandise imported. This decrease was due, perhaps, not so much to a shrinkage in volume as to the fall in values.

The advance in exports of £309,574 was mainly due to the export of pearls to India. The total value of £860,589, which is considerably below pre-war figures, compares favourably with those for previous years. But, as in imports, there was a decrease amounting to 9.8 per cent. in the value of general merchandise exported. This decrease in general merchandise was mainly due to the fall in values, but partly also to a decrease in the export of silk, woollen goods, wheat and wheat flour. The decline in value of wheat and wheat flour exports would seem to be due to the fact that rains on the mainland in the early part of 1922 were exceptionally good, resulting in good grazing and crops, and consequent decreased imports of grains. On the other hand, the export figures of dates to India and coffee to the mainland show considerable increases. One noteworthy feature during the period under review is the export of mother-of-pearls to the United Kingdom and India to the value of £433 and £906 respectively. Exports of this commodity entirely ceased during the war, although in pre-war years they were considerable.

The scheme for the reconstruction of a telephone system in Syria and the Lebanon has been postponed indefinitely by the authorities.

Messrs. J. Henry Schroder and Co. announce that the coupons and drawn bonds of the Bulgarian Four and a-Half per Cent. Loan of 1909, due on December 1, may now be presented for payment, under the conditions of the scheme put forward by the Bulgarian Government.

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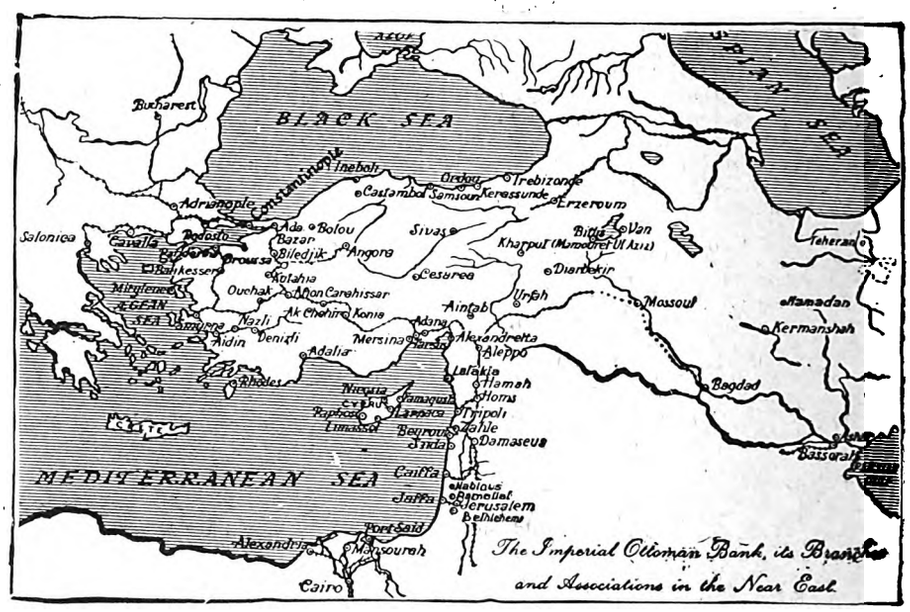
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Near East Markets.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 3:—

The arrivals of sultanas since the opening of the season are estimated at 23,100 tons and the sales at 21,100 tons. 2,000 tons of fruit have been again taken off the market this week. The advance in prices has been very gradual, and hardly apparent unless compared with the level of a month back, since when a gain of 2s. to 3s. per cwt. (Fls.2 to 3½ per 100 kilos) has been realised. The improvement has been mainly in the lowest grades and the very finest qualities. The lowest grades have attracted a strong demand, owing to their cheapness, whereas the finest grades have been overpaid owing to shortage in supplies. Fruit equal to our type 17 will most likely be unobtainable before long. We continue much in the dark as to the exact supplies remaining over in the country.

A subsequent report for the week ended November 10 states:—

Sultanas continue firm, with a strong demand. The arrivals are now estimated at 24,600 tons, and the sales at 22,650 tons.

A further report, dated November 17, states:—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 26,000 tons, and the sales at 24,000 tons. During the past week interest in sultanas has been largely centred in estimating the statistical position. The total shipments to date amount to 22,700 tons. The quantity still available for export is the subject of some difference of opinion. It varies between 7,500 to 9,500 tons. Taking the stock on this side at 8,500 tons, we arrive at the following figures (in tons):—Total shipments to date, 22,700; estimated unsold stock, 8,500; stock in shippers' hands between sales reported to date and shipments effected, 1,300—total, 32,500; less carry-over from last year, about 2,500; estimated yield, 1923, 30,000 tons. The carry-over of about 2,500 tons of old fruit has now been mostly absorbed, mainly for mixing up by certain shippers in their bulks against forward sales of Gaq. to the U.K. and the Continent.

The strength of the position can be gauged by the very unusual fact of a gradually hardening market during the period when the invariably slackening demand from abroad results in a general dullness in prices. The tone of the market is bullish and with no great weight of fruit remaining on this side sellers are inclined to hold on to their stocks, progressively advancing their prices as they lighten their position. The scarcity of fine grades is daily becoming more marked. The quality equal to our type 17 and Carabournou fruit is unobtainable to-day on the market. Quotations for these descriptions are purely nominal, as the occasional parcels that come forward are very much overpaid in relation to other sorts.

Natural Figs.—The visible unsold stocks amount to about 700 tons. The generally accepted crop estimate is 20,000 tons. So far 18,000 tons have been sold. Apart from the visible 700 tons of unsold stocks on the Smyrna market, the interior must be holding about 1,300 tons, but the general belief is that little or nothing of this will be sent to Smyrna for sale. Shippers are holding stock which, however, is earmarked against forward engagements.

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN BULGARIA.

The following extracts are taken from the current monthly report of the Bulgarska Banka:—

The average consumption of salt in Bulgaria is about 40 million kgr., on which a duty of 30 leva per kilo is paid. Of this quantity the salt springs of Anhialo have produced already 10,000 tons of sea salt, of which 7,000 tons is warehoused, and it is expected that the total production will reach twice that figure. The quality of Anhialo salt is excellent, and Bulgarian salt is said to be the purest that exists.

The daily average production of coal from the Pernik mine varies from 2,800 to 3,000 tons. During the first six months of the current year the production of this mine has increased to 440,609 tons, as against 898,112 tons for the whole of 1922.

The home exchange is handicapped on account of the fact that, owing to the small export of grain and flour, as well as the stoppage of the export of tobacco, consumers are reducing their purchases to a strict minimum. This is also due to some extent to the fact that, in spite of an improvement in the Bulgarian lev, home prices do not correspond to the present rate of exchange of the lev, in comparison with which they remain appreciably higher. For this reason credit continues to be very limited, and the financial crisis becomes more and more acute.

The Export Trade.

Cereals and Flour.—The exports have been weak up to the present, despite the factors in their favour. At the same time one begins to notice more activity in the different markets, and it seems probable that a good volume of business will soon develop, although the excellence of the world harvest will have the effect of reducing orders for Bulgarian products.

Raw Hides and Leather.—There has been a swift rise in raw hides, which tendency is in accord with the price movements on the Western markets.

DRIED FRUIT REPORT.

Messrs. J. C. Houghton and Co., of Liverpool, report as follows under date December 1:—

Currants.—The political upheaval which we are experiencing had a detrimental effect on the development of business during the closing weeks of November, a period usually associated with the greatest activity, and buyers have persisted in the policy which they have pursued since the commencement of the season, limiting their purchases to immediate requirements. It is generally acknowledged that if a Tariff Reform Government is installed in office certain changes in present Customs rates will take place. Heavy arrivals per Grodno, Tyria, Slot Weena, Fabian, and Emil Boman, which brought in the aggregate close on to 5,000 tons, elicited no response from the trade, sales being altogether disappointing; but, notwithstanding this, a quiet feeling of confidence has prevailed, and is growing stronger, though for the time being no material change in prices can be recorded. Holders display greater firmness, and buyers find it increasingly difficult to renew purchases on similar terms to those made a few weeks ago. The principal inquiry has been for cleaned Pyrgos and Amalias at from 43s. to 46s., and the better grades of cleaned Patras and Gulf from 48s. to 50s., Panariti 53s., 54s., and finest quality shade dried 70s. to 72s. We close the month with a firm undertone, and sellers are convinced that they will see better prices in the future. Quotations:—Pyrgos, 43s.; Amalias, 44s. to 45s.; Zante, 43s. to 46s.; Gulf and Panariti, 47s. to 55s.; Vostizza, 60s. to 72s.; cleaned Pyrgos and Amalias, 43s. to 44s.; cleaned Gulf and Patras, 47s. to 50s. Australian currants.—These are moving slowly, 2 Crowns 55s., 3 Crowns 58s. to 61s., and stocks are getting exhausted.

Raisins.—Practically the whole season's supply of Valencia fruit came in three steamers—Roger de Flor, Paulina, and Fabian—their cargoes being quite inadequate for Christmas requirements. The fruit met an active demand, with advancing prices, extreme rates being paid for ordinary quality owing to its scarcity. Sales were: Half-boxes 60s. to 70s., quarter-boxes 75s. to 80s., fine 90s. to 95s., seedless 44s. to 55s., a few choice of the last-named description realising up to 70s. Cape raisins have also benefited by the shortage, and all arrivals have been quickly absorbed:—Pockets, third grade quality, 42s. 6d.; fair average boxes, 55s. to 62s. 6d.; good average boxes, 60s. to 65s. Lexias:—The fresh consignment per Anchises was keenly competed for: 2 Crowns, 52s.; 3 Crowns, 58s.; 4 Crowns, 60s.

Sultanas.—In the early days of the period under review very little was available for the market, and the cargo of s.s. Grodno, totalling 30,000 boxes, failed to relieve the situation, as most of these had been disposed of afloat. These factors caused a good demand for spot parcels, ordinary fruit selling at 55s. to 58s., good 60s. to 75s., choice 80s. to 90s., and fine 108s. The Tyria, Sitra, and Andalusian arrived later, and as these steamers were carrying the October forward purchases, sold at prices considerably below those now ruling, naturally buyers became indifferent to spot parcels. Closing prices are:—Ordinary cleaned, 54s. to 57s.; good uncleaned, 58s. to 61s.; good to fine, 60s. to 75s.; choice, 80s. to 90s. Greeks.—New crop, 60s. to 65s.; old, 40s. to 43s. Australian sultanas.—Forced sales in London, 2 Crowns 40s., 3 Crowns 45s., have weakened our market, and sales are recorded as follows:—2 Crowns 48s., 3 Crowns 46s. to 50s. Afghans.—Reds, 32s. to 35s.; yellows, 42s. 6d. to 45s.

Figs.—The moderate quantities have been readily absorbed at full prices:—Layers, 87s. 6d. to 105s.; locoums, 125s. to 130s.; packets, 100s. to 110s. Bags, unfortunately, have not met the same active response from the country as skeleton cases, and to encourage progress concessions in price had to be made. Sales, 33s. to 35s.

The British Overseas Bank recommends dividend at rate of 6 per cent. per annum, less tax, upon "A" Ordinary shares for half-year ended October 31. Meeting, December 14.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway.

The report of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway for the year to March 31 last shows that the gross earnings of the entire system amounted to Rs. 751.85 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 671.25 lakhs; while the working expenses amounted to Rs. 481.77 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 469.06 lakhs for the previous year. With an increase in the gross earnings and working expenses, there was an increase of net earnings to the extent of Rs.67.89 lakhs. The net earnings for the company's and State lines rose from Rs. 182.88 lakhs to Rs. 284.83 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 59.95 lakhs, and of the Mysore State Lines from Rs. 11.03 lakhs to Rs. 15.47 lakhs, an increase of Rs. 4.44 lakhs. The company's share of the surplus profits of the company's and State Lines, less Indian income-tax and Indian super-tax, amounted to Rs. 23,55,380, realising £157,639. The company also received from India £3,409, a refund of overpaid Indian super-tax, and £2,908 relief in respect of United Kingdom income-tax, making a total of £163,956. The surplus profits from the Mysore State Lines amounted to Rs. 64,881, realising £4,372. The surplus profits for the whole year realised £168,328. The interest on investments amounted to £26,447, so that the total receipts amounted to £194,775, compared with £126,223 for 1921-22. The directors recommend the payment on January 1 of a final dividend of 25s. per cent. and a bonus of £1 10s. per cent., in addition to the guaranteed interest of £1 15s. per cent. to be received from Government, making a total distribution of 7½ per cent. for the year. Meeting, 25, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., December 5, noon.

Burma Railways.

The gross earnings of the Burma Railways for the year to March 31, 1923, totalled Rs.3,65,22,989, and the net earnings were Rs.1,48,13,918, compared with Rs.97,95,915 for the previous year. The company's share of the surplus profits, after deduction of the sum reserved for Indian taxation, amounted to Rs.28,93,298, against Rs.13,95,722. Since the last report, when the amount standing at the credit of the reserve was £53,030, the Board have transferred to the reserve the carry-over of £169,389, which stood at the credit of surplus profits. The reserve fund now amounts to £222,420. The amount available on the profit and loss account is £201,308. The Board proposes a final dividend of 1¼ per cent., together with a bonus of 2½ per cent., making 8½ per cent. for the year, transferring to reserve £5,579 and for income-tax and corporation tax £31,110, leaving to be carried forward £7,119. Meeting, 199, Gresham House, E.C., December 11, noon.

National Bank of Egypt.

The position at September 30, 1923, published in conformity with Article 8 of the Statutes, was as follows:—Banking Department.—Liabilities: Share capital (300,000 fully paid shares of £10 each), £E2,925,000; Reserve Fund: statutory reserve, £E1,462,500, special reserve, £E731,250; current, deposit and other accounts, £E11,288,708; mixed tribunals, £E1,361,288; Egyptian Government, £E7,239,298; Sudan Government, £E289,961; bankers accounts, £E188,645; cheques and bills payable, £E225,971; sundry other accounts, £E888,452—£E26,601,073. Assets: Government securities and securities guaranteed by the Egyptian Government, £E13,904,348; sundry securities, £E186,691; advances on merchandise, £E851,565; advances on securities, £E2,191,557; advances otherwise secured, £E420,806; sundry other advances, £E1,494,598; bills of exchange, £E1,004,902; local bills discounted, £E273,570; buildings and furniture, £E300,425; money at call and at short notice £E1,735,500; bankers accounts, £E1,647,388; sundry other accounts, £E405,923; Cash: notes, £E1,500,063, gold, £E23,214, silver, nickel, etc., £E660,523—£E2,183.800—£E26,601,073. Issue Department.—Notes Issued, £E28,600,000—£E28,600,000. Gold, £E3,339,576, *British Treasury Bills £E10,960,424—£E14,300,000; Securities: Egyptian Government securities and securities guaranteed by Egyptian Government, £E420,850, British Treasury Bills and National War Bonds, £E13,879,150—£E14.300,000—£E28,600,000.

P. and O.

The report of the directors of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co. for the year to September 30 last states that after providing for depreciation and adding £105,758 to the insurance fund, bringing it up to £3,200,000, there is a credit balance on the year's accounts, including £101,799 brought forward from last year, of £817,976 The directors propose to deal with this amount as follows:—5 per cent. dividend on the Preferred stock for year, £152,000; 12 per cent. dividend on the Deferred stock, free of tax, £431,102; to reserve for redemption of 5½ per cent. Debenture stock, £123.000: addition to provident good service fund, £10,000; carry forward, £101,873. Although prices are still above pre-war figures, the directors have considered it desirable to contract for four fast steamers of 16,000 tons, more particularly for the London-Bombay mail line, and these new ships are being constructed by Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd., and by Messrs. Hawthorn, Leslie, and Co. In addition, and more particularly to speed-up the Indian mail service, an express steamer mainly intended for the run between Aden and Bombay, has been contracted for with Messrs. Harland and Wolff, Ltd. This vessel, which will be of some 10,000 tons gross register, is expected to be delivered in the summer of next year. The directors have also entered into contracts with Messrs. Barclay, Curle, Ltd., and Messrs. Alexander Stephens and Co., Ltd., for three passenger and cargo ships of 16,000 tons each, mainly for the Australian line. These ships will have large capacity for cargo, and more particularly for the conveyance of refrigerated produce. The conditions of working in all spheres of the company's operations have been very difficult during the past twelve months, caused by labour troubles, which have adversely affected the general export and import trades. Shipbuilding has also to a large extent been hung up by the unfortunate boilermakers' strike, which lasted for about seven months. The directors reported last year that there were indications of a slight improvement in the outward trade business, but it is still very poor, although the company's ships secure their share of the business doing. The homeward trade has shown little improvement. The company's passenger business has been satisfactory. The earthquake in Japan has affected the company's business there, but the resource of the Japanese people is such that already business with Yokohama has been resumed. The mail service has continued to be carried on satisfactorily, and the pre-war schedule is now in operation, with the exception that the service of mail steamers to and from Australia is still four-weekly instead of fortnightly, giving, with the Orient Company's four-weekly service, a fortnightly mail service with Australia. The ordinary general meeting will be held at the company's offices, 122, Leadenhall Street, E.C., on December 12, at 11 a.m.

Constantinople Land and Building.

The report for the period from January 1, 1919, to December 31, 1922, states that the last accounts which were submitted were made up to December 31, 1918. The accounts from the end of 1914, however, did not show transactions in Constantinople for the reason that peace with Turkey was not officially signed until July 24, 1923, and not ratified until August 28, 1923. The directors now submit accounts showing in detail transactions in Constantinople and London for periods not previously submitted. The rate of exchange used for the conversion of Turkish currency is 784.63, the average rate at which funds in Turkey have been transferred to London. The credit balance at December 31, 1918, was £5,731, to which has been added results of transactions over the periods above mentioned, giving a total credit of £20,267 10s. 6d. From this has been deducted provisions for taxation, depreciation of furniture, and loss on realisation of investments, amounting to £3,219, leaving a net credit balance of £17,048. The directors place to the reserve for depreciation of properties £3,000, and recommend a dividend of 20 per cent., less tax at 4s. 9d. in the £, carrying forward £1,341. Meeting, 1, Walbrook, E.C., December 12, noon.

According to *Izvestia* of October 28, the Electric Trust Company has signed an agreement with the Persian Government for the installation of a powerful wireless station in Teheran and 11 auxiliary stations in other centres. The total cost of the order is estimated at £50,000.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜ 97$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	220-230
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	375-395
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	24.88 24.92
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¼-1.5$\frac{5}{16}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	93.70 93.80
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	830-850
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	80-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5¼-1.5$\frac{9}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	790-810
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.34⅛
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	80.80 80.85
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	148½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	540 580
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	300-310,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20.43	15,000,000*

* Nominal.

* By authority of the Egyptian Government these Treasury Bills are deposited in lieu of gold. (See *Journal Officiel* of October 30, 1 16.)

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 657—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

Elections in Greece.

In the interval before the General Election next Sunday the main interest in Greek affairs centres in the prospect of the appeal to the electorate resulting in a genuine expression of the national will. Unfortunately, as the day approaches the chances of the elections serving this purpose seem to become more remote. The leaders of the anti-Venizelist groups have now announced their intention to take no part in the elections, and the Zaimists also have threatened to abstain unless certain electoral decrees are immediately rescinded. It is difficult to understand why the Revolutionary Committee, which knows quite well how necessary it is in the interests of the country that there should be nothing to hinder the free and full expression of the people's real views, persists in hedging the elections about with controversial regulations. The value of a straight fight between Venizelists and Republicans with all these abstentions would, in the event of the defeat of the latter, indicate how little hold the Republican theory has on the national mind; but the election would serve no other purpose. If, on the other hand, the Republicans won, they would almost certainly represent a minority of the Greek people. Many of them are undoubtedly influenced by the main, but none the less false, argument of the Republican leaders, as stated by Colonel Kondylis, that only by means of a republic can Greece reinstate herself in the good books of the Allies, and that France, in particular, is anxious to see the Republican system established.

M. Venizelos's Refusal.

In spite of the monster meeting in Athens last week and its shouts of "Come back and save us!" M. Venizelos persists in his refusal to return to Greece for the purpose of assuming the reins of government. The logic of his decision is unanswerable. The country, he says, stands in absolute need of a definite cessation of civil strife and of the restoration of internal peace under conditions guaranteeing the normal operation of free institutions. As a large political section of the nation entertains towards him a feeling of deep repulsion, his return to political life would exacerbate rather than appease the existing differences. He even considered the advisability of a temporary return with a view to bringing about an understanding between conflicting parties, so that the participation of all in the coming elections might be possible; but he is compelled to repeat the hard fact: "The deep distrust which I inspire in the minds of the opposite political party makes me least of all suitable to act as a peacemaker and conciliator." The very truth of the admission is its tragedy; and it is, perhaps, not merely a coincidence that at the very moment when the question of M. Venizelos's return was in the balance official publicity should be given to the report that "a gang of foreign anarchists" is on its way to Greece. The Government disclaims any uneasiness with regard to the King's safety, but leaves it to be inferred that the new arrivals, who are usually credited with aiming high in the political or social world, are not in Greece for a holiday. M. Venizelos tempers his refusal with the suggestion that a Greek Council of State ought to be established, and in that event he would consent to serve for two years on a body of that nature, which would be chiefly judicial. But as he names two antecedent conditions—internal peace and no party objection to his return—the suggestion would not appear to have any immediate bearing on the present situation.

The Œcumenical Patriarchate.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the case may be, there can be no doubt that most unedifying scenes are being enacted at the Phanar in Constantinople. The resignation of the late Patriarch was inevitable, and when the time came for a new election every effort ought to have been made to use the sacred office as a means towards the gradual resumption of satisfactory relations between Greeks and Turks. At the outset, however, an evil genius in the person of Papa Eftimios, leader of the Turkish Orthodox in Anatolia, appeared on the scene to embitter those relations. He seems to have had little difficulty in reconciling his ecclesiastical calling with that of a swashbuckler, and achieved some measure of success in dragooning the Holy Synod into giving effect to his wishes. A false move, however, in having himself elected

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as representative of the Synod to Angora, when the Turkish Government wished to have nothing to do with the Patriarchate, caused him to forfeit for the moment the favour of the Turkish authorities. The Synod was accordingly left to its own devices in the election of a new Œcumenical Patriarch, with the one restriction that he must belong to a see within the present boundaries of Turkey. From the fact that the choice fell on an archbishop who was known to be almost as unacceptable to the Turks as the late Patriarch, it may be inferred that the eleventh-hour interference of the Turkish authorities with the proceedings was due to their having got wind of the uncompromising attitude of the Holy Synod. The election of the Archbishop of Kadikeuy as Patriarch Gregorios VII. at once brought Papa Eftimios on the scene again. His seizure of the Phanar, however, appears to have been short-lived, for he has in turn been ejected by orders of the Angora Government. This move on the part of the latter suggests that it has no intention of assuming responsibility for Papa Eftimios's actions. In the circumstances, therefore, although obscurity surrounds the events connected with the Patriarchate, it does seem unfortunate that the Holy Synod should have thrown down an unnecessary challenge by electing as Patriarch one who was known to be anathema to the Turks. At Lausanne Turkey had a good case in claiming that the Patriarchate had been abused for political purposes, and that the abuse must be stopped. The Allies could not refute the evidence, but gave the Turks to understand that they discountenanced political activities on the part of the Patriarchate. On the very first occasion the Holy Synod, which is composed of Greek prelates, give the Turks grounds for complaining that the old evil is to be as rampant as ever. The Synod may have been within its rights, but it is not apparent that it has served the interests of Greece, of the Orthodox Church or its own.

The Palestine Government.

The Advisory Council foreshadowed in the dispatch, dated November 9, of the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the High Commissioner for Palestine has been formed to assist Sir Herbert Samuel in the administration of the country in the face of the repeated refusals of the Arabs to co-operate with the authorities. This Council is composed solely of Government officials, the heads of various Departments, together with the Chief of Police and the Governor of Jerusalem. For the time being, therefore, the government of Palestine is being conducted on the lines of the earliest form of Crown Colony government. The country will suffer nothing from this fact, and the Arab population will find themselves better off than they would be under the system that their leaders are advocating. There is, however, no desire on the part of Great Britain that this form of government should be continued indefinitely, and it is satisfactory to note that the new Arab National Party, in spite of the extremist character of its published programme, does not altogether exclude from its purview co-operation with the Government. For the present there can be no occasion for such co-operation, and the Party will thus be given time to find itself, to measure its strength with that of the so-called Arab Executive, and to gauge the extent of the following that it can command in the country.

The New Irak Cabinet.

It is not a matter for surprise that financial rocks should form the most serious obstacle to the navigation of the new Irak Ship of State. Politically, Great Britain has placed the young nation on its feet, and is standing by to prevent a fall; the northern boundary is still a matter of dispute with Turkey, but here Irak has the definite assurance that it is not going to be left defenceless or to have Mosul torn from it. In the matter of finance, however, the country has been left mainly to its own devices, and the problem before it is admittedly a serious one. Some sympathy must be felt for any native Government in having to follow a *régime* of which the foundations were laid with little regard to considerations of cost. There has been much done in the way of administrative economies, but it is probable that the whole administrative system is still on a scale that a young and sparsely populated country cannot afford. Jaafar Pasha, the new Prime Minister, has set himself an admirable programme to carry out, and his personality offers the best guarantee that he will be able to give effect to his good intentions. In no sphere, however, will his efforts be more cordially endorsed by the taxpayers than in the encouragement given to foreign capital and in the reduction of the cost of administration.

India and the Elections.

Indian questions were not directly an issue in the elections decided last week, and, so far as we have seen, they were not discussed at length on the platform by the leaders of any party. The results must, of course, interest India in so far that they will determine the complexion of the Imperial Government, but that is a matter on which we are not disposed to prophesy at the moment beyond expressing the opinion that at least one more General Election must come before there can be any grounds for expecting a change in the attitude maintained by Parliament towards India for the last five years On the personal side the new House of Commons will know less of India than the old. Lord Winterton, Mr. Hope Simpson, Sir Henry Craik, and Colonel Wedgwood return unopposed or with comfortable majorities, and Sir Charles Yate has, we are glad to say, been successful in a very close contest, but Sir John Hewett, Sir Thomas Bennett, and Mr. Saklatvala disappear. The last-named stood for nothing that is really Indian, but the knowledge and experience of the eminent administrator and the eminent journalist are serious losses on the Floor, and even more in Committee, where most of the important Indian business is now transacted, and at present there is nobody to take their place.

Protection in India.

The policy of Protection, which has once again "received its death-blow" in this country, is still very much alive in India, and the proceedings of the Tariff Board maintain their interest for students as well as politicians. Hitherto the Board has found ample occupation in getting at the real position of the steel-makers on the one side and the makers of steel goods on the other; and it appears to have taken no steps to secure evidence on behalf of the great majority of the people, who use steel goods but are not interested in their manufacture. The latest reports to hand show that an enterprising journalist volunteered to fill the gap, and brought the whole question from the board room into the market-place by insisting on the elementary fact that cheap steel is a primary need for increasing the income derived by the country from its land. We are a little surprised that the Agricultural Departments should not have taken the initiative publicly in this line of argument, but, at any rate, it is now formally before the Board. "Interests" in general are somewhat unsavoury things, but when it is a question of conflicting interests it is just as well to lay stress on the primary interest of three-quarters of the population.

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Taxes or Bounties.

To our mind, the best practical solution of this very complex problem was indicated in the recommendation finally adopted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce at their meeting held last week in Bombay. The steel industry is essential to India, and must be not merely saved, but strengthened and extended. Action by means of protective duties would probably be effective for the moment, but would certainly end by impoverishing the peasants, and consequently the country as a whole. If, therefore, the industry cannot yet stand on its own legs, it is better to pay out cash now in the form of a bounty than to mortgage the indefinite future at a ruinous rate. In our opinion, however, the "if" is a very big one. It is impossible for the public to get at the facts directly, obscured as they are by so many technical and financial considerations, and the Tariff Board will justify its existence if it succeeds in furnishing the data for the final verdict; but before public assistance is given in any form it is essential to know that the money will be put to some use other than the enrichment of a small body of active speculators.

THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

On Taking First Knock.

Well, it is all over, and not much of a match to look at.

Mr. Baldwin, it seems, declared far too early, and against a strong batting side his bowlers could obtain no foothold; and, too, some of his safest fielders missed easy catches. Further, his side had not sufficient of the team spirit, so that the Rest, finding run-making easy, won with wickets to spare.

Yet no sportsman (whatever the omniscient spectator may say) will be found to condemn the action of Mr. Baldwin; rather will all true players applaud him for taking the risk. No one could have foreseen that the wicket would turn out so beastly wet and tricky.

The General Result.

Even if confession were not good for the soul, it is inevitable to all but the journalist, and I frankly admit that the result of the Election amazed me. Never again will I venture to anticipate an electoral result, or, in particular, to ridicule the influence of the "popular" Press. The effect of this last anarchic force is presumably too much for anyone to appreciate, for, whatever was the advice which it gave, it certainly was not in favour of Labour.

Flatly and obviously we are, owing to this stalemate of the parties, back once more in the atmosphere of compromise, intrigue, and scandal. Such a state would, of course, be much more interesting than the condition of one-party rule if we had no very urgent domestic and foreign problems, but in this balance of parties there is no chance of a clean, straight settlement of these problems; they will be attacked in pieces, nibbled at, made, in short, more ugly still. Whatever form of Government we are to suffer, it is certain that hundreds of Members of Parliament will, until the next Election, have to forgo, or at least to bend, some of their convictions.

To this statement there are two answers, both of which are being given—by the intelligent man as well as by the Rotherbrook reader: (1) That no political convictions are possible in the present state of affairs, and (2) political evolution has reached so high a degree of tolerance that it is desirable that convictions should be bent. In other words, they do not deny the evil, they justify it. It is such worshippers of the moment who are at the back of the idea of the Centre Party.

The Centre Party.

Despite superficial appearances, such as the strength of the Labour Party and the submergence of such men as Mr. Churchill and Sir Alfred Mond, the Centre Party is by no means dead, and its protagonists manifestly intend to fight hard for its formal resurrection. Of itself it can have no constructive ideals, but will stand resolute on the plank of opposition to Labour. Born in fear, it appears to be growing up almost in dread.

Being founded on the short view, it naturally appeals to opportunists like Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Birkenhead, to Lords Rothermere and Beaverbrook. If it develops and endures for any length of time, the fate of England abroad is a declining one—I will not put it more strongly than that. But I should be the last to say that it will not come.

In the Interim.

Everybody appears to be agreed that there will be another Election next spring or summer—although what about no one has yet laid down. It is being taken for granted that the Premier will resign—in which case he will be immortalised either as the man who broke the Conservative Party or as the Conservative too conspicuously honest for his party and for his generation. One can scarcely think that, after this quite decisive rejecting of Protection, he will continue to lead the Conservative Party: there would surely be too many backsliders from his standards.

If the Conservatives continue in power, having dropped the policy of tariffs, it seems probable that a more pliable politician would be at their head, in which case the intriguers and wirepullers would have their chance and would certainly seize it.

(These protestations of the impossibility of any one party combining with another must be taken at their face value: one says, in victory or defeat, many things that are subsequently neglected—they are remembered only by one's opponents at Election times.)

It is possible, on the other hand, that the Conservatives may go into opposition, whereupon either Mr. Ramsay MacDonald or Mr. Asquith would take office. This event would probably be best for the Conservative Party, and it is high time that something for the best did happen to them! There is, of course, far less difference between the Conservative and Liberal parties than between either of them and the Labour Party; but that fact could easily be glossed over. For the next few months politics are to be more of a game than ever, and we shall surely see strange desertions.

Individual Casualties.

For some time the conviction had been growing upon one that, although regard for Mr. Baldwin steadily increased, he was being backed by a very scratch lot. There were in or attached to his Cabinet men in possession of neither conspicuous ability nor energy. And one instinctively felt that the Premier's personal honesty was far greater than that of many members of his party. Still, one was scarcely prepared for such wholesale slaughtering of his followers. The loss of half-a-dozen Cabinet Ministers was scarcely compensated by the defeats of Messrs. Churchill, Henderson, McCurdy, and Sir Alfred Mond. The fine flower

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of youth in the Conservative Party is in some measure destroyed, and it will presumably need the inclusion of some higher ideal than that of Protection to restore it. At present it would seem that the surplus idealism of England's youth (so much berided of Lord Birkenhead) will overflow into the Labour Party, which alone now has any ideals left.

The Reaction Abroad.

It seems almost impertinent to mention the effect of our political situation on our foreign relations, so successfully was this subject obscured in the recent Election. Why the Conservatives did not dilate upon the evil effects which an access to power of Mr. Lloyd George or of an anti-French Labour Party would have abroad is one of those things that passes comprehension. For without any doubt at all our relations with the more powerful Continental nations are not going to improve. We may succeed in gaining the esteem of all our ex-enemies, though what effect that will have on our unemployment problem for many years will remain unnoticeable.

However, it is not cheering to anticipate disastrous or distant foreign relations; it will be painful enough to record them when they manifest themselves.

The Philos phy of History.

It must have been an ideal experience to turn last week from the worries of the moment into the meeting of the Royal Society, at which Professor A. S. Pringle-Pattison lectured upon "The Philosophy of History." He appears to have summed up beautifully old and new attitudes upon the meanings of history. Very short work was made of the theory that civilisations inevitably decay, and still shorter of the doctrine that universal progress is inevitable. The only meaning in or message from History to men was, he said, the injunction: "Work out your own salvation."

This reading appears absolutely right, and certainly is in keeping with the spirit of the age. But in another hundred years, maybe, people will be wondering how on earth we came in this age to ignore the factor of religion as one of the things making for the permanence of civilisations. You cannot synthesise the histories of the West and of the East by referring to the human motive alone, for it is only in the present, passing age that man has so constantly acted from his own impelling motive. One cannot believe in the permanence or the endurance of an atheistic civilisation.

Composers' Visits.

Whatever may be the world-significance of the projected Hungarian loan, the importance of Hungarian music, or, rather, music by Hungarian composers is becoming known to the world. Recently two very notable Hungarians have revisited London, Bartok, and Dohnanyi, and have made an undeniable impression. There is, very evidently, stuff in the Hungarian nation.

Pizzetti, the Italian composer, is visiting us this week. A good deal of fuss was made a year or two ago over his violin sonata, but, taken in general, his work, though more superficially pleasing, is less interesting than that of Bartok.

London still seems to be the centre of the musical world.

The Broadcasting Accent.

An amusing pother is being raised over the accent in which the speakers engaged by the British Broadcasting Company—the 2 LO accent—indulge. Children, they say, are already cultivating this accent, and the claim of Oxford to furnish the fashion is already past.

Of course, this is bosh. It is quite true that for broadcasting purposes some people do employ a peculiar system of phonetics, but do not we all know the telephone boys and damsels who jauntily ask for "Houb'n. Fave-eet-double-nane," and have we not all suffered their immediate relapse when the receiver is put down? Of course, on a few peculiar souls this indulgence in a "refained" accent does have permanent results—everybody will remember Mr. Kipps' "How nace," and his ineffable "Good-baye," but such affectation is probably growing rarer as contempt for the upper classes increases.

A Loss to the Stage.

There is no intelligent theatre-goer who will not sharply regret the death of Miss Meggie Albanesi, who was on all sides acclaimed as one of the finest actresses of the younger generation. She was, perhaps, greatest in comedy; one cannot, for instance, imagine a finer playing of the part in which she triumphed in "The Lilies of the Field." But one could equally admire her in tragedy so profound as Tolstoy's "Reparation." She was typical of her time, restless, commanding, intense, yet how rare art truly typical of the best points of any time always is will surely be realised by the gap which she leaves.

Alter Ego.

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"THE BLUE PETER."

The December issue of this magazine of sea-travel is, if anything, above the level of preceding numbers. It is beautifully produced, and contains many articles of varied interest. Readers of The Near East will probably be most attracted by "The Road to Marrakesh," "Port Said: A Visit," and "By River and Desert," which last is an account of a journey from Baghdad to Damascus.

Prince Christopher of Greece left Claridge's on December 6 for Paris.

On the demand of the Albanian Government, the Council of the League of Nations is going to examine questions relative to the treatment of Moslem Albanians residing in Greece.

The Yugoslav Government proposes to submit to the Chamber immediately for ratification four Conventions concluded with Austria on the occasion of the recent visit of the Austrian Chancellor, Dr. Seipel.

The Governor, Sir George Lloyd, and Lady Lloyd left Bombay on December 8 on their return to England. Throughout their progress from Government House to the place of embarkation they received a great ovation.

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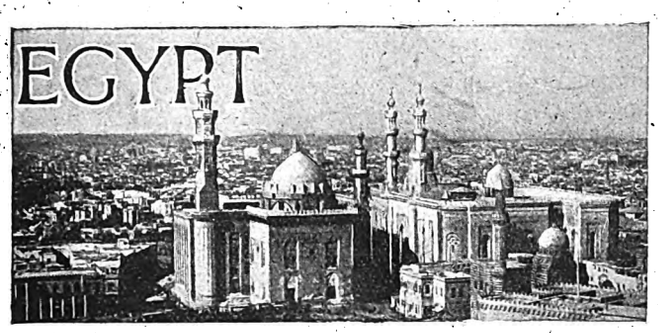
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 2.

Many Retirements.

Scarcely a day passes without some new impending departure of an old resident being reported. During the past fortnight we have had an unusually full crop of such news items. Following on the sudden and unexpected going of General Blakeney, General Manager of the Egyptian State Railways, there has been some change in the senior staff of the railway administration, and now it is announced that Mr. Joseph Maudslay, the assistant general manager, will retire as from April 1 next. He will probably leave the country some time before this, on leave of absence prior to definitely quitting the service. Lewa Parker Pasha, who only recently became Director-General of the Frontier Districts Administration, is also reported to be going very soon, after a long period of service in Egypt and the Sudan, much of which has been spent in unfrequented desert places, such as El Arish. Parker Pasha, who is a nephew of Lord Kitchener, was lent to the Egyptian Expeditionary Force during the War, and his experience in administering areas in which the local senior official is almost omnipotent was put to good use at Jaffa and in other military governorates of Palestine while that country was still being treated as occupied enemy territory. Another departure which the British community in Cairo will regret is that of Mr. F. N. Walton, manager of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank here, and one of the most popular of British residents. But the most notable resignation of all is that of Dr. Alexander Granville, president of the International Quarantine Board, president of the Labour Conciliation Board, and, until recently, vice-president of the Alexandria Municipal Commission, after having been for a time Director-General of Alexandria Municipality. Although he has not been in Egypt for more than fifteen or sixteen years, Dr. Granville is one of the most influential foreign officials in Egypt. He is *persona grata* with the King, and has enjoyed the confidence of successive Egyptian Governments to a greater degree, perhaps, than any other foreign official. He is the only British civil official upon whom the rank of Pasha has been conferred. His vacating the Quarantine Board opens up the question, in view of the changed conditions in Egypt, of the right of nominating a successor. Although the head of the Quarantine Board is an official of the Egyptian Government, the Board is international in character, while its chief work, which consists in preventing the introduction of diseases by vessels entering Egyptian ports, is mainly concerned with ships flying the British flag. Presumably the new head of the Quarantine Board will be nominated by the British Government, with the concurrence of the twenty odd other interested Powers.

The Condition of the Railways.

The resignation of General Blakeney, referred to above, started a discussion in the local Press which promised to become very interesting, but which suddenly died out. *Al Mokattam*, the best-informed of the Arabic newspapers, stated that the late general manager resigned because the Ministry of Communications would not agree to demands which General Blakeney considered the minimum requirements for ensuring the efficient running of the system. The Ministry of Communications has issued a statement denying the *Mokattam's* report, and declaring that the railways are as good as ever they were. Public opinion, however, has not been completely reassured, for, although it is generally known that the immediate reason for General Blakeney's going was his inability to work with the Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Communications, it is also common knowledge that the Ministry, which is, to all intents and purposes, controlled by the Under-Secretary, has views regarding the country's railway, telegraph and telephone systems which many people, well placed for forming an opinion, view with some alarm. The control of railway personnel has been taken out of the hands of the general manager, and is now exercised by the Under-Secretary of State. Whether or not as a result of this change, the railway employees are now certainly suffering from many grievances, real or imagined. The Ministry has shown an increasing tendency to override the opinions of experts on technical questions, and, as a result of the increasing retention of effective authority in the hands of the Under-Secretary of State, numerous matters which need speedy decisions are being held up. The present headquarters of the telephone administration are inadequate and inconvenient, and the lease has not much longer to run. A scheme for the establishment of new telephone headquarters was drawn up, but has been rejected by the Ministry, and so on in many other instances. It is the general opinion that the railway, telegraph and telephone administrations have deteriorated in the last eighteen months, and will probably deteriorate still more, on account of the withdrawal of authority from the technical heads of the various

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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departments. Fortunately, the Government has appointed in Mr. Verschoyle an excellent successor to General Blakeney, but—and this is the point which Egyptian Ministers and Under-Secretaries appear not to grasp—nobody, however competent, can guarantee the satisfactory running of a department if deprived of an essential part of his authority.

St. Andrew's Day.

Last Friday evening the Scots of Cairo and Alexandria celebrated the festival of their patron saint in time-honoured fashion, with haggis, pipe-music, and Highland dances. At the Cairo dinner, attended by the High Commissioner and Viscountess Allenby, there was a distinctly valedictory note about some of the speeches. Since the previous year several of the Scots who never missed a St. Andrew's Night dinner had left the country, and before November 30, 1924, comes round many more will have gone. The proposer of the toast "The Land We Live In" expressed the sentiments of most people present when, quoting Mr. Baldwin, he gave utterance to the hope that the Egyptian people would benefit by, and eventually appreciate, the work of the "plain, common, honest men" who during the next few years will be leaving the country where they have spent their working lives.

The Luxor Discoveries.

The local Arabic newspapers, or, to be more correct, one section of them, have had a wonderful time with the Tutankhamen tomb business, which has been turned into a question of national pride and honour. The Egyptian Government has been accused of bartering away the sacred rights of the Egyptian Press to first publication rights in any kind of news originating in Egypt, and envenomed personal attacks have been made on the Prime Minister and the Minister of Public Works. Now that the Egyptian Government has made it quite clear that it considers the present arrangement for the distribution of news of the work at Luxor to be satisfactory, the newspaper agitation has died down, as it was bound to do, since, apart from the fact that the Arabic journals which were shouting most loudly had completely misunderstood the position, the agitation had no basis of conviction under it. The average Arabic newspaper cares no more about the contents of Tutankhamen's last resting-place than for what may be in tombs at Tooting, as is shown by the fact that few of the local journals trouble to publish the daily bulletins issued by the Government regarding the Luxor operations. The unshakable conviction of every Egyptian I have met is that his country is being despoiled. Nothing will convince him that the most valuable of the Tutankhamen treasures were not smuggled out of the country last year. In Egypt everybody is dishonest until he has proved the contrary!

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BULGARIA.

Sofia, December 4.

The Elections.

As a result of the Parliamentary Elections which were held throughout Bulgaria on November 18, M. Zankoff's Government has obtained an overwhelming majority over all other Parties. Out of 248 seats the Government has secured 199. The remainder are divided between 39 Agrarian-Communists and 9 Liberals. Of the total number of votes cast 60 per cent. were for the Government. Such a victory was more or less expected, and it must be said that the Elections caused remarkably little public interest. They went off quietly, and the Government express themselves as satisfied with the result.

The New Parliament.

On Sunday, December 9, the Sobranye will assemble, and it will then be possible to form a better idea of an internal political situation which is exceedingly complex. The 200 Governmental Deputies, regardless of whether they belong to a Bourgeois Party or the Democratic Sgovor, are understood to be willing to support M. Zankoff. All these Deputies are, in fact, united under a common standard, but whether they can remain united is an entirely different question. The rivalry which has existed between the men of June 9 and the former Bourgeois leaders at present shows signs of abating. This is, perhaps, because both sides realise that they must close up their ranks in order to deal effectively with the Agrarian-Communist Opposition. But although both parties wish to work together, there are certain questions which must be settled before real and complete singleness of policy can be achieved.

It has to be decided whether the actual Cabinet shall present their resignation to King Boris. This resignation might only be a formality, but none the less in certain quarters such a step is considered necessary. Then there is the question as to who will direct the Government's policy. The Cabinet formed on June 9 contains three officers, five Bourgeois politicians, and Premier Zankoff. Given the trend of events since June, it is only natural that the military section have more or less controlled the Government's policy. The Communist September disturbance which, it may be mentioned in passing, is not altogether finished with, rendered it essential for the Minister of War to have a free hand. The civilian element has been forced to play a secondary rôle. Now, with conditions growing gradually more normal, there are voices which demand that the civilians should resume control. At the same time it is pointed out that the five Bourgeois Ministers are not wholly representative of their respective parties. They are young men who formerly did not occupy important positions. But it would appear that the majority of the country, while recognising that certain administrative changes will have to be made, are at present desirous that the actual Government should remain in

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power. It is argued that M. Zankoff has obtained the country's confidence only during the recent elections, and that he and his colleagues are but now having an opportunity to frame and carry out a policy. There is no doubt that any change in the present administration would be both risky and difficult. There have been enough changes already, and what is now required is continuity.

At the same time there is no use in shutting one's eyes to the fact that certain abuses are prevalent. The events of June 9 gave power to certain younger persons who have not used it wisely. There are signs of unrest amongst a happily tiny section of the Reserve Officers League. This institution possesses very great influence, and it is to be hoped that for the good of the present Government, the chiefs of the League will resolutely quell any symptoms of disobedience and intolerance on the part of their juniors.

To sum up, the situation of the Government can be described as favourable. They have a clean slate in Parliamentary affairs. They have many energetic and intelligent men who are well fitted to carry out the internal reforms which the country so urgently requires. Excepting the cost of the Allied Armies of Occupation in 1919-1920, they have no pressing foreign problems to deal with, whilst economically and financially the situation is none too bad. But there is one danger, and that is the continued existence of an out and out Bolshevist Party. This danger must be dealt with in a manner which will permit of a gradual *rapprochement* between the Government and the Moderate Agrarians.

The Communist Vote.

Approximately 20 per cent of the votes in the recent Elections were given to Agrarian-Communism. This is a proportion which cannot be disregarded by observers of current Bulgarian political affairs. At the last Elections the Communists obtained a smaller proportion of the total vote. This time their vote has been swelled by Agrarians, who, lacking both leaders and organisation, decided to become temporarily "Red." These Agrarians are not really Communists. They are, perhaps, as opposed to the present Government as the Communists, but they have a different outlook and a different way of struggling. It is to the interest of the country that the forthcoming Parliamentary Session permits a development enabling the Agrarians to reorganise and to reconstitute their Party on separate lines. Under Stamboliski there were, roughly, three political currents in Bulgaria, the "Right" as represented by the Bourgeois, the "Centre" as represented by the Broad Socialists and the Draguieff-Tourlakoff Moderate Agrarians, and the "Left" as represented by the Communists and the Stamboliski-Daskaloff Droujbashis. To-day the "Centre" is threatened with extermination. The Socialists have gone with the Government, and the Moderate Agrarians with the Communists.

The latter, although considerably shaken by the failure of their September revolt, are nevertheless in no wise disheartened at the result of the Elections. They are working away with system and with energy. If reports coming from usually trustworthy sources are true, much money and propaganda is being distributed from Soviet Russia. There are even officials who aver that before the end of the present year another rising will take place. This is improbable, but is not outside the realms of possibility.

The Army.

Last week the Government again drew the attention of the Great Powers to the difficulties which are being experienced in maintaining law and order with the small voluntary army allowed Bulgaria by the Peace Treaty. M. Kalfoff, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited the Allied Ministers, and it is understood, requested that approximately one quarter of the 30,000 army and gendarmerie should be allowed to be recruited on a conscript basis. It is very improbable that the Allies will grant such a request, as there would immediately be a violent protest from Yugoslavia, and in a lesser degree from Roumania and Greece. The injustice of the voluntary army and the high cost of upkeep are too well known to readers of THE NEAR EAST to necessitate repetition. Perhaps the time may arrive when one of the Allies will be bold enough openly to support a revision of a clause of the Peace Treaty which cannot but be regarded as both illogical and absurd.

The Foreign Loan Question.

I learn on reliable authority that the Government, although they have been approached by foreign financial groups, are not contemplating the raising of a loan abroad. They wish to bring out their Budget first. In addition, they consider that the various tentative offers which have been mooted by foreigners contain terms which it would not be in Bulgaria's interests to accept. At the same time the Government will give wholehearted support to any proposals for municipal or private loans.

General News.

The Yugoslav-Bulgarian Reparation agreement, details of which appeared in THE NEAR EAST of November 15, was signed at Sofia on Monday, November 26.

After a four months' drought rain has commenced falling throughout Bulgaria.

IRAK.

Baghdad, November 29.

The New Cabinet.

Once again a Cabinet crisis has resulted in the resignation of the whole Cabinet, and a new Cabinet has been formed composed almost entirely of persons who have never before held ministerial rank. Although no statement has been issued stating officially what were the reasons for the Cabinet's resignation, it has been freely asserted in the local Press that certain proposals made by the Cabinet regarding new taxation designed to meet the expected budget deficit were at the bottom of it.

The Press has, therefore, taken the opportunity to draw attention to the unsatisfactory financial

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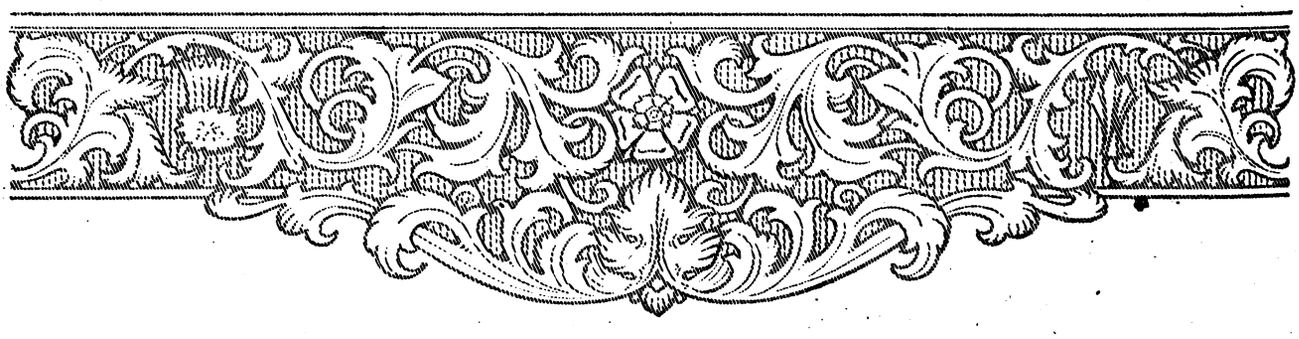

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and economic position of the country, and to urge the new Cabinet to take steps to effect an early improvement. It points out that the revenues of the country at the moment are dependent to a very great extent on the volume of grain produced and its price in the open market. The result is that at a time like the present, when the price of grain has fallen so low as to make it scarcely worth producing, not only does the Government's revenue fall very considerably, but also trade receives a very serious setback because of the lack of money in the country to pay for the necessaries of life which have to be imported from abroad. At the moment agriculture in Irak is in parlous straits, trade is at a standstill, and there is a large amount of unemployment and destitution. The late Cabinet made strenuous attempts to balance its budget, but it is expected that the accounts at the end of the year will show a considerable excess of expenditure over receipts. To a large extent, circumstances over which it had no control have made it unable to make both ends meet; the abnormally high floods in the spring, which carried away bridges, burst bunds, and, besides ruining large areas of cultivation, made it necessary for the Government to spend large sums on repairs to bunds and other flood protection works, followed by the severe slump in the prices of cereals, rendered the task almost impossible. The most outstanding attempt to increase the revenue was the frequent increases made in the Customs duties, which are now so high that it is a very moot point whether they are not defeating their object. There are unmistakable evidences that in certain commodities smuggling is rampant, and with the long land frontiers which Irak possesses, this is a practice which the Government will find it exceedingly difficult to check. The papers are now stating that the country is taxed more heavily than it can stand, and are urging the new Cabinet to look for an improvement in the financial and economic position, not to increased taxation, but to economies in expenditure and to the encouragement of the development of the country through the agency of foreign capitalists. Negotiations have, say the papers, been for some time in progress for the grant of concessions for the exploitation of the oil resources of the country, and for irrigation projects, and the Press is advising the new Cabinet to complete these negotiations as soon as possible.

The Cabinet's Personnel.

The new Prime Minister is Jaafar Pasha al Askeri, formerly Minister of Defence, and later representative of Irak at the Lausanne Conference and in London, and appointments have been made as follows to the various Ministries :—

Interior	ALI JAUDAT BEG
Finance	HAJI MUHSIN ASH SHALLASH
Justice	SAIYID AHMAD EFF AL FAKHRI
Defence	NURI PASHA SAID
Wakf	SHEIKH SALEH BASHAYAN

Nuri Pasha is the only member of the new Cabinet who was in the last one. Ali Jaudat Beg has been Mutasarrif of Hillah, of Kerbela, and of Muntafiq, and so brings considerable experience of local conditions and of *liwa* administration to the Cabinet, as also does Sheikh Saleh Bashayan, who has been for two years Mutasarrif of Amarah The appointment of Ministers who have had experience of district work is to be welcomed, as hitherto such experience has been sadly missing in the Cabinet. Saiyid Ahmad has been Kadi of Mosul for some years, and bears a high reputation for integrity, while Haji Muhsin ash Shallash is a prosperous merchant of Nejef, who has been asked to take office before, but has hitherto refused to do so. He is the only Shiah in the new Cabinet.

The Death of Count Asfar.

One of the most prominent members of the Christian community in Baghdad passed away this week in the person of Count Asfar. He had always been a most liberal benefactor, and spent very large sums on charitable purposes, and he will be much missed both in Baghdad and in Basrah.

PERSIA.

Teheran, November 15.

The Shah's Visit to Europe.

The Shah left Teheran on Sunday morning, the 4th instant, for Europe, via Mesopotamia, travelling incognito, as his trip is not an official one. His Majesty was accompanied by the new Prime Minister as far as the Irak frontier, which was reached on 8th instant. Here Sardar Sepah took his leave of the Shah, who proceeded to Baghdad, where, after meeting the British High Commissioner, Sir Henry Dobbs, he started on the cross-desert journey to Damascus. Sardar Sepah returned to the capital, after being received and welcomed with great enthusiasm at the towns en route. A few days before leaving Teheran the Shah paid a visit to Kum to bid farewell to Ayatollah Khalessi, the Persian Shiah high priest deported from Kerbela, and the other Ulema from Irak who are still in that town awaiting the result of the negotiations with King Faisal's Government with regard to their return to Mesopotamia. Sardar Sepah accompanied His Majesty, who returned to the capital the same evening, having travelled by car.

The Premier's Energy.

The new Prime Minister has lost no time since his return from the frontier in instituting improvements in the town. He has given orders that the present quality of the bread sold to the public must be improved and made from pure wheat only, and bakers supplying inferior quality bread will be severely dealt with. As bread is the staple food of the natives, this wise step is much to be commended.

Another step which will be much welcomed is the order for the removal from the streets of all beggars. The police have been instructed to effect this, by order of the Prime Minister, and those beggars who are able-bodied must be provided with work, and the old and infirm must be provided with accommodation and food by the Municipality.

Throughout the East beggars are an unmitigated nuisance in the streets, and Teheran is no exception to the rule. It is, indeed, refreshing, therefore, to know that one is no longer to be importuned by the wails and laments of the lame, blind, and halt, and the entreaties of the professional beggars, nor disgusted by the exhibition by the roadside of persons afflicted with nauseating sores and other revolting sights.

The Prime Minister has just issued a proclamation which has been published in all the local papers, exhorting the people not to be tools in the hands of foreigners, nor to frequent foreign lega-

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tions in the hopes of obtaining recommendations from members of the latter, with which they might secure public or other appointments. Sardar Sepah reminds the public that two primary causes lead to a nation's decay and deterioration, if not stopped in time. These are disorder and insecurity in the country, and anarchy of ideas and moral disorder among the citizens. Congratulating himself that the first of these has completely disappeared (and this is, by the way, no idle boast, the Minister of War himself being chiefly to thank for the order prevailing at the present time throughout the country), he states that it is now time to fight against the second, which is characterised by the dangerous habit, contracted by a great many people, of asking from strangers and foreigners the help and assistance of their recommendation in order to achieve their object. The consequences of this habit being equally dangerous from the point of view of the public welfare as from that of the future of the country, anyone practising it in future will be considered a traitor to his country, and will render himself liable to the severest punishment. In conclusion, the Prime Minister lays stress on the fact that the above must in no way give rise to misunderstandings among foreigners; it does not imply any change in the Government's relations with foreign Powers. These relations are as friendly as ever, and the present Government intends to do its utmost to consolidate them more and more.

By the above proclamation Sardar Sepah would appear to wish to draw attention to the fact that he intends to put Persia's house in order with the help of Persians alone, and will brook no foreign interference, and this is entirely in keeping with his policy ever since he has had a say in the affairs of the country—namely, to do away, as much as possible, with foreign influence, except in a purely advisory capacity.

The Prime Minister, who combines with his present high position the no less important posts of Minister of War and Commander-in-Chief, is naturally a busy man, and has, therefore, necessarily had to apportion his working hours, and has allocated them as follows:—Every morning he devotes to military matters, except Fridays, which, being the Moslem Sabbath, are, of course, holidays. Three afternoons a week he will attend Cabinet meetings; two afternoons he will receive visits and petitions at his own house, and one afternoon a week is set aside for receiving the representatives of foreign Powers.

General News.

Colonel MacCormack, one of the American Financial Advisers, has gone to Mohammerah to fix, on the spot, the amount of unpaid arrears of taxes, and those due in future, by the Sheikh Khazal of Mohammerah (who, by the way, has just presented to the Minister of War two armoured cars in recognition of his great services to the country), and to inspect at the same time the installations and works of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and go into their accounts with the Persian Government.

The third steamer from Germany via the Russian river and canal system arrived in Enzeli some days ago, with a cargo of sugar, piece-goods, haberdashery, spirits, and other articles. This boat was named the "Ispahan," after the name of a Persian town, which all the boats on this service bear. A fourth vessel is on its way, but is not expected to get through before the waterways are frozen over during the winter. The cargo will, therefore, be unloaded on to barges that will be met by the "Ispahan," which will sail shortly from Enzeli for this purpose.

The National Exhibition of Arts and Industries will, according to the papers, be opened next Monday, but it is doubtful whether the preparations will be sufficiently advanced to admit of this.

RESIDENCE AT OSBORNE HOUSE.

An Order in Council published in the *Gazette* announces that in future "persons (1) in the permanent civil, diplomatic, or consular service of the State; or (2) in the permanent civil service of the Government of India, of the Malay States, of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, or of any colony or protectorate under the administration or control of one of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, of Palestine, of Irak, or of any mandated territory in Africa under such administration or control as aforesaid; who have by the nature of their official duties prior to the date of admission been required to serve, and have recently served in a tropical, sub-tropical, or unhealthy climate outside their country of origin, and to whom it may reasonably be expected that residence at Osborne House would be specially beneficial, shall be eligible to participate in such benefits."

PARIS-PRAGUE NON-STOP FLIGHT.

In the spring the French-Roumanian Company, which is running the aeroplane service between Paris and Bucharest, hopes considerably to reduce the time of the journey by making practically a non-stop run between Paris and Prague. Hitherto aeroplanes have landed at Strassburg, and passengers, mails, and goods were transferred to another machine, entailing a long halt. Now, however, it is proposed that aeroplanes shall land only to take petrol on board; larger aeroplanes with several motors will be used instead of the present type. An alteration in the time-table will also be made, aeroplanes leaving Le Bourget at night arriving at Strassburg at dawn and Prague later in the day. Thus the total journey from Paris to Bucharest will be covered in one day and two half-nights. It is also estimated that the use of a single large aeroplane over the whole route would enable the number of passengers and the amount of goods carried to be increased. In 1923 there were four times as many would-be passengers for Central Europe as could be carried.

The Greek Legation at Berne is being re-established, and M. Dendramis has been appointed Chargé d'Affaires.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia arrived on December 5 at the Hotel Maurice, Paris. He was welcomed by the staff of the Yugoslav Legation and representatives of the Yugoslav colony in the French capital.

Representatives from Irak and Transjordania left Baghdad last week for Koweit, to attend a conference to settle the outstanding problems (including the boundary problem) with Ibn Saeud.

According to Reuter's Delhi correspondent, the principal murderer of Major Finnis, a Muzagai Shinwari, has been captured by the Zhob levy corps. He confessed to the crime, and implicated four Waziris and two Shinwaris. The majority of the culprits escaped northwards.

A statue of General Maude was unveiled in Baghdad on December 6 outside the Residency by Sir Henry Dobbs. The King, the Ministers, senior officers, prominent Arab and British representatives, and members of the Consular Body were present. Wreaths were placed at the base of the statue by the King of Irak, Sir Henry Dobbs, the senior officers present, nursing sisters, representatives of the British Chamber of Commerce, the French Consul, and representatives of Baghdad and Basrah.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 13 (New Style).
November 30 (Old Style).
Gumada I. 4, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tibet 5, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

The Maharaj-Rana of Jhalawar has left London for India.

Lady Ludlow, acting under medical advice, left England last week for Egypt and the Sudan.

Lord and Lady Brownlow have left London for Egypt and Palestine. The Hon. Sarah Cust joined them in Paris.

The Hon. W. and Lady Beatrice Ormsby-Gore returned at the end of last week to 5, Mansfield Street from the country.

The Aga Khan, who is at present in France, has arranged to leave Marseilles by the s.s. Mooltan on December 28 for India.

The Hon. Mrs. Bailey left London last Thursday afternoon by the P. and O. express to join the steamship Mantua at Marseilles for Bombay.

The Raja of Pudukota arrived last week at the Ritz Hotel, Paris. The Ranee, who has been staying at Cannes, joined him on December 5.

Mr. H. Percival Dodge, United States Minister to the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, who has been on a visit to England left London on December 5 for Belgrade.

M. Titulescu, Roumanian Minister in London, left London last Saturday for Paris to attend the Council meeting of the League of Nations. Mme. Titulescu has gone to Bournemouth.

Prince Arthur of Connaught, who is to travel in the British India steamer Karagola from Durban to Beira, will embark at the latter port on Saturday, December 15, in the same company's s.s. Neuralia for Port Said.

Sir Arthur Evans, F.R.S., delivered a lecture on "The Ancient Relations of Crete to the Nile Valley" in the Central Hall, Westminster, on December 11, under the auspices of the Egypt Exploration Society.

A meeting of the Anglo-Hellenic League was held at University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, last Tuesday. "Greece and Recent Events" was the subject of discussion, and the chair was taken by the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop Gore, M.A., D.D.

Viscount Peel, Secretary of State for India, presided last Friday at the fifth annual Sir George Birdwood Memorial Lecture, given at the Royal Society of Arts, by Mr. William Foster, C.I.E., Historiographer, India Office, on "The Archives of the Honourable East India Company."

Viscount Peel, Secretary for India, presided at the meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, held last Tuesday evening in the Edward VII. Rooms, Hotel Victoria. Sir William Vincent (member of the Council of India) gave an address on "British Rule in India—What It Has Achieved."

A paper by Sir Charles Ernest Low, K.C.I.E., entitled "The Future Development of Indian Industries," will be read by Sir Alfred Chatterton, C.I.E., before the East India Association next Monday (December 17), at 3.30 p.m., at the Caxton Hall, Westminster. Sir Thomas H. Holland, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., F.R.S., will preside.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The death is announced of the Princess Fathia, third daughter of Abbas Hilmi Pasha, the former Khedive of Egypt. She recently returned to Cairo with the Khedivah-Mother.

It is announced from Peshawar that the Afghan Government has complied with the British Government's demands in connection with the ambushing at Barshor, near Quetta, on November 25, 1921, of a small British column by Waziris who came from Afghanistan.

It is stated from Belgrade that the next meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Little Entente will take place there on January 11 and 12.

Lord Reading left Delhi on November 21 for a long tour, during which he will visit Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore, Madras, Calcutta, Rangoon, and Mandalay, returning on January 7.

The well-known Zionist, Mr. Jabotinsky, who held a commission in the British Army and served in Palestine during 1918, is touring the Baltic States lecturing on Zionism.

General Sir Herbert Vaughan Cox, G.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.S.I., of Woodhayes, Camberley, Surrey, who saw service in India, Burma, and China, afterwards commanding the Gurkha Brigade in Egypt and Gallipoli, and later the 4th Australian Division in Egypt and France, subsequently Secretary of the Military Department of the India Office, who died on October 8, aged 63, left estate of the gross value of £5,171, with net personalty £1,153.

The Salonika Jews having been granted four instead of three seats in the future National Assembly, the Council of the Israelite Community of Salonika has decided that Jews are to take part in the forthcoming Greek elections.

In connection with the forthcoming Indian National Congress at Cocanada, the United Provinces Congress Committee has, according to an Allahabad message, adopted a resolution recommending a change of creed defining "Swaraj" as "complete independence."

The *Daily Telegraph* states that the Vatican, in the new Concordat which it is concluding with Serbia, is making an important concession to the Slav world by sanctioning the use, for ceremonial purposes, of a special liturgy in the old Slavonic idiom. The same privilege will no doubt be extended to all the Slav nations that may wish for it.

The partition wall separating the shrines from the antechamber in King Tutankhamen's tomb, on which work had been proceeding for some days past, was completely demolished on December 5, states *The Times* correspondent from the Valley of the Kings.

Prince Paul of Serbia is staying at the Ritz Hotel, Paris.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1923.

THE ELECTION AND THE EAST.

Any set of circumstances which seems to impair the authority of the Government of the day in Great Britain may be regarded as being liable to react on the country's foreign relations. Thanks, however, to an established continuity in British foreign policy, as well as to actual conditions in the Near and Middle East, there is no danger of the stalemate in home politics causing any serious prejudice to British relations with the Orient. The worst that could happen is that the return to power of Mr. Lloyd George, if only as a member, and not the head, of a Liberal Cabinet might cause a momentary fluttering in Near Eastern countries. The Turks might imagine that British policy would inevitably resume an anti-Turk bias, while among the Greeks hopes might be raised of a move on Great Britain's part which would offer them a short cut out of their troubles. Both nations would be wrong. Quite apart from the unlikelihood of Mr. Lloyd George's being his own Foreign Secretary again, a very definite stage in Near Eastern affairs has been passed since he tried his experiments in that particular sphere. In the first place, there is peace between Turkey and Great Britain, and it is improbable that the Turks will, in the face of the expressions of British good will towards them, deliberately expose themselves again to the risk of sacrificing this asset by entering the lists against Great Britain. Greece certainly needs a helping hand; but she can count on this from any British Government as soon as she has put her house in order, and there is little chance of her finding salvation until, by her own efforts, she has extricated herself from her present political tangle. The danger of an indeterminate position in British politics is not that an alternative Government to Mr. Baldwin's will change British policy in the Near East, but that there will be delay in the formulation of the only British policy now possible in that part of the world. In the region of foreign affairs Anglo-French relations have played for so long a necessarily dominating part that there has been little room for any other preoccupation. Both France and Italy, however, have taken advantage of Great Britain's loyalty to the Entente to embark on separate policies in the Near East, and the time has come when whatever British Government is in power must take definite steps to fulfil the rôle that British interests and British prestige in the eyes of the Near Eastern nations demand.

GREECE AND TURKEY.

A task of pressing urgency awaits Great Britain in the Near East, and it is a task that she alone can perform. By a Convention embodied in the Treaty of Lausanne it was agreed between Greece and Turkey that there should take place a compulsory exchange of Turkish nationals of the Greek Orthodox religion established in Turkish territory and of Greek nationals of the Moslem religion established in Greek territory. At the time this arrangement appeared to the Turks to be sound policy. They attributed most of their recent troubles to the presence of Greeks in their midst, and it seemed to them a natural corollary that if once they were rid of the people who were the chief incentive to Greek Imperialist aspirations their troubles would cease. Further, as Turkey was henceforth to be for the Turks, the more there were of the latter the better for the country; and thus it was agreed that Moslems in Greece were to be exchanged for the Greeks in Turkey. However rational the procedure sounded at Lausanne and Angora, it has proved a tragic mistake in practice. There may not have been time yet to appreciate to the full the harm done to Turkey by the expulsion of the Greeks, but there has been ample opportunity for the Turks to realise that the compulsory repatriation of the Moslems from Greece is a piece of criminal folly. Turkey is not prepared to absorb these unwilling subjects into the body politic; and even if they could be properly maintained until they became self-supporting, they must inevitably form a nucleus of discontent in the country or supply the opponents of the Government with ready-made recruits. The Moslem victims of the Lausanne Agreement are its strongest opponents. And there is something pathetic in the recital of the expedients to which these unhappy people are resorting—even the abjuration of their religion—in order to try to escape from the hardship of compulsory transportation to Turkey. The Turkish Government has so far recognised its mistake as to suggest to the Greek Government that the transfer of these people should be postponed until the spring. As might be expected, the latter is by no means eager to save the Turks from the consequences of their own folly, and consequently the arrangements for the removal to Turkey of the Moslems in Greece, who in most cases are more Greek than Turk, hold good.

It is at this point that the British Government should come forward to save Turks and Greeks from themselves. The former, in view of their own request that the transfer of the Moslems from Greece should be postponed, would probably welcome any intervention that enabled them to save their face in the matter. The mischief in regard to the removal of Greeks from Turkey has already been done, and the Greek Government would not be human if it did not derive some pleasure from seeing the Turks hoist on their own petard. Other considerations, however, enter into the matter. The thinking section of the Greek people is well aware that the interests of Greece require an ultimate *rapprochement* between Greeks and Turks; the sooner it comes the better for both. There are many outstanding questions between the two countries which Greece must wish to see regulated to her satisfaction. The controversy over the Œcumenical Patriarchate promises to make the relations between the two countries still worse, to the obvious prejudice of the Greeks in Constantinople. If it were possible to set the expulsion of the Turkish population in Greece against these other questions, a tolerable *modus vivendi*, or at least the beginning of one, might be secured for the two countries. Left to themselves, Greeks and Turks will be most unlikely to reach agreement, or to take the first steps towards it. The British Government, on the other hand, could quite well bring the two parties together. In so doing it would be carrying out Great Britain's true rôle in the Near East, where it has no other policy than to promote the establishment of peace and cordial relations between the different peoples as a stepping-stone to the promotion of their material prosperity. Policies that seemed wise enough after the first flush of victory

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are found on cooler reflection to be double-edged. In its desire to avoid having to receive in Asia Minor Greece's Moslem nationals the Angora Government may not be averse from a reconsideration of all the outstanding questions between it and Greece, provided that there is a probability of its being met halfway. The establishment by British agency of correct relations between Greece and Turkey would be of signal service to the well-being of the whole of the Near East.

AT THE HOUSE OF SALI KOPACHI.

By LILIAN T. MOWRER.

It was after dark when our tired horses stumbled up the rocky path to the tiny village of Keux. They turned instinctively to the *han*, a place like a cow-shed, which was to accommodate us for this first night's halt on a three days' ride from Koritsa to Tirana. The prefect at Pogradetz had promised to send word to a friend at Keux who would look after us, but it was quite obvious that we were not expected.

I slipped from my wooden saddle and peered into the *han's* interior. One side served for the animals and the other side for such travellers as braved the road. A few tattered rush mats on the mud floor, men in voluminous rags squatting round a charcoal fire, and a stench, which even the acrid smoke that hung thick on the air could not disguise, rewarded my inspection. Strange that such primitive conditions exist in the heart of Europe. Yet Albania is but a stone's throw from tourist-ridden Italy, just seven hours across the Adriatic from the heel.

We turned to the *katerji*—a Vlack who knew a little Italian—and telling him we would find accommodation elsewhere, pointed to some lights in the valley. He unstrapped our baggage from the pack horse, and left it with the *han* keeper while he murmured something about finding a room at the barracks. We did not hesitate to leave all our things with that villainous looking man. Of all Balkan peoples, the Albanian has a sense of dignity and honour that makes travelling, even for an unaccompanied woman, absolutely safe. A visitor to the country is a guest protected by all the tradition that Oriental hospitality implies. His person is sacred. His possessions are taboo.

We made our way towards a big building on the outskirts of the village whose windows began to show twinkling lights. We went in and found ourselves in a sort of kitchen where a hunchbacked man was cooking something over a glowing fire. The *katerji* disappeared, and soon another man, in the uniform of a French corporal, and an Italian Carbineer approached and beckoned to E. to follow him. I was tired and glad to sit by the fire, but soon even the hunchback went out, taking the lamp with him, and I was left alone in the dark.

After a few moments the silence became intolerable, and I started up wondering where the others could be. Outside, a crazy staircase, with half the wooden rungs missing, and the handrail hanging wildly in mid-air, led to an upper gallery with many rooms giving upon it. I climbed up. No one was in sight. All the doors were closed. It seemed queer, and I felt uneasy and called for E. The doors flew open, and a man appeared in each aperture. They were not Albanians, they were Croats: deserters from the Serbian Army who had come over the frontier near Lake Ochrida, and whom we had passed earlier in the day. They watched me curiously as, with as firm a step as I could muster, I strode down the corridor to the big doors at the end. I flung them open, and saw three ancient men, with flowing white beards, lying on pallet beds smoking hookahs. Their aspect was patriarchal: they wore turbans and baggy trousers. They might have been there since the beginning of time. E. was standing by a table, and at the end of the room an angry little man in a black fez was shouting into a telephone, "Pogradetz! Give me Pogradetz." But "Exchange" in Albania is as obdurate as elsewhere. There seemed no chance of getting the connection, and one of the bearded men turned to us with sweeping gestures of regret. It was impossible to get in touch with our friend the prefect, and we gathered the barracks were crowded with the deserters and could not offer us a room. But if we cared to go to the "rich man of the village" he would surely receive the noble strangers with pleasure. The corporal offered to conduct us thither. "Where is the house?" we asked. "On and up," said the corporal in bad Italian, so saying good-night to our companions we once more stepped into the night. It was now nearly nine. We had been riding since midday, and had eaten nothing but some bread and cold fish at a brief halt.

After a quarter of an hour's climb we came to a fair-sized house, which was apparently closed for the night and in utter darkness. I began to fear that the occupants were all in bed and that we should have to sleep in a haystack after all, but a tall figure opened the door, and, to the corporal's introduction, "Strangers who wish shelter for the night," bid us enter with majestic courtesy.

The room we entered was built over the animals' stables, and we could hear them moving about underneath. It was clean and bright, with white-washed walls and a scrubbed wood floor. There was no furniture at all. Rush mats covered with wool rugs were spread before the fire, where two men in white fezes sat smoking. Our host Sali Kopachi, led us to the best mat and begged us in gesture to take off our boots and be seated. I wished that courtesy had not demanded that I sit crosslegged, for I was stiff from riding; but it would have been ungracious to have refused the invitation. A black-skinned servant squatting in front of the fire prepared us tiny cups of Turkish coffee, and after an hour we were served *raaki*, that baleful liqueur that smells like gin and tastes like fire. The despairing squeak of a hastily killed chicken assured us that food, too, would be forthcoming, but an Albanian is far more interested in conversation than in eating, and Sali was making the most of this unexpected visit. There are few newspapers in the country, and most of the peasants (and the townsfolk, too, for that matter) are illiterate, and it is the travellers and the drivers of the packtrains who bring tidings of the big world.

Yes, we had come from Italy—to Valona—ah! then perhaps we knew Kiazzim Kokoshi, the gallant defender of that port? We had spent the night with Kiazzim, and were able to give a full and accurate account of the rising that was troubling the country. The rebels had been repulsed, some of their leaders had been hanged. Eli Yussuf had surrendered, but had been allowed to keep his arms. The entire country had been strong for the Government, and volunteers had flocked to Tirana from every town. Sali Kopachi sat on his mat smoking and nodding his head approvingly. It was good to hear the truth after the wild rumours that had swept the countryside like fire through stubble. In his turn Sali told us of local affairs, farmers' talk of crops and weather. He was a rich man, owning a hundred goats and as much land as thirteen oxen could plough. This sounded extensive, but must have been less than it would be elsewhere, for, owing to poor stock and bad grazing Albanian animals are several sizes smaller than Western European breeds. We had seen

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many full-grown cows on the hills little bigger than sheep.

My crossed legs were growing numb, and I shifted uneasily once or twice. A little boy of about five, who had listened to our words with grave eyes, looked at me with imperturbable loftiness while his own crossed legs were as motionless as any Buddha's. Soon a little baby toddled in, a mere bundle of evil-smelling rags; and played with his father's fez. Our host was evidently a married man, but, of course, no woman appeared during our visit.

About eleven o'clock the slave brought in the meal: hard-boiled eggs in a copper bowl, a grilled fowl, tough as only an old bird but recently done to death can be, corn bread, coarse as caked sawdust, and sour milk. Sali regretted that he had not been warned beforehand of our arrival. I was glad he had not. The food would have been just as long coming, and the meal would have continued interminably into the night, with dish after dish of meat, each more badly cooked than the last, succeeding each other in deadly procession, which courtesy would have forbidden us to refuse, nay, would have forced us to accept twice and thrice.

After we had eaten, the slave approached with a beautifully wrought brass bowl, and Sali Kopachi himself poured warm water over our hands and dried them with an embroidered linen napkin. Then, seeing that we were tired, he sacrificed the joy of more talk and spread clean mattresses by the fire and brought blankets. He asked at what hour we wished to depart next morning, then bid us good-night

Precisely at a quarter to six he walked into the room, blew the ashes into a blaze, and sat down on his mat to smoke. The slave put a kettle of water on the fire, then sat down too.

"Are those men going to remain?" I whispered to E. "Of course," he answered. "They never take off any clothes at night, and it doesn't occur to them that you do" So I "assembled" under the blankets, and rose, rather stiffly, to put on my riding boots. Impossible to have felt embarrassed before the olympic calm of the two Albanians.

We drank tiny cups of sweet herb tea, and Kopachi rolled us cigarettes. Then the *kvas* entered and told us the horses were ready. As I stood at the gate of the garden and thanked our host in the only native words that I know, I spied three tousled feminine heads at an upper window peering curiously down at the strange woman whom their lord and master had entertained that night.

I would have given a good deal to know their thoughts.

Mr. K. C. Roy Chowdhry, Indian delegate at the International Labour Conference at Geneva, left Marseilles for India by the Mantua last Friday.

Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harington was the guest of the King's Regiment (Liverpool) Old Comrades' Association at dinner last Saturday.

Flight Lieutenants Gandle and Pierce were attacked by Arabs in the outskirts of Baghdad on December 7, states a message from the *Morning Post* Baghdad correspondent. The former was killed and Lieutenant Pierce was injured. Some arrests have been made and investigations are proceeding.

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PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

The Sudan.

The November issue of *Outward Bound* contains an article by Major Henry Darley, R.F.A., on "The Sudan and its People." The Sudan, he says, has always been sacrificed to the good of Egypt, but the British Government now realises that it owes a duty to the Sudanese as well as to the Egyptians. The key of the situation lies in the Nile, irrigation works in connection with which must be largely increased. A series of works similar to the Assouan Dam will have to be built extending not only to Khartoum, but also to Lake Tsana, and to the head waters of the White Nile in Uganda. On such dams the safety of the dwellers in Egypt depends, but, if the Sudanese are not to be sacrificed to the needs of the Egyptians, a beneficent Power must hold the scale between the two races.

But the task of the Sudan Government is no easy one; it has, in fact, at the moment to make bricks without straw. In its work of building the country up and of giving the people sense it must be supported by the British Government—otherwise the land will lapse into anarchy and into subservience to Egypt.

Palestine.

The issue of *Palestine* for December 1 comments forcibly on the recent utterances in New York of Mr. Zangwill on Zionism. It begins by pointing out certain defects in the Jewish character, such as the tendency to deal in political generalisations, and to ignore practical details. It agrees with Mr. Zangwill's lament over "the watering-down of the Balfour Declaration," but continues—

> No one fought harder for a larger Palestine and a genuinely Jewish Palestine than the Zionist Organisation. Let us frankly admit the disappointment of those early hopes which we all shared. Let us even agree with some of the harsh things said about the military government which did so much to thwart the early hopes raised by the promise; we have from time to time said even harsher things in this place, on this subject, than Mr. Zangwill himself. What then? We know that Mr. Zangwill would have had every Arab cleared out for the arrival of the Haluzim. Has he the smallest conception of how that could have been done or how that policy could have been forced on Lord Allenby and his gallant men against their will? Has he calculated the effects that such a policy would have had on the future of the Jews in Palestine? He cannot have thought these things out. There were two logical alternatives and two only. Either you could try to impose your will on the British Government and threaten to turn on them if they refused; or you could believe in the honour of the British Government, protest as strongly as may be against the watering-down of the pledge, and just wait and work. The Zionist Organisation chose the second alternative, and rightly. The first alternative would have been as though the returned captives from Babylon had begun the rebuilding of Zion by declaring war on Darius. As a logical antithesis, it was absolutely sound; major and minor premisses and conclusion, all were perfectly water-tight. As a policy, it would have blown up the moment it had been tried. And it would have blown up amid mocking laughter and some cries of shame. The Zionist Organisation, then, just plodded on, doing what lay in front of its foot (as the Greeks used to say), and fanning the precious fire of its ideal.

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Near East Bookshelf.

FROM AKBAR TO AURANGZEB.

"FROM AKBAR TO AURANGZEB: A STUDY IN ECONOMIC HISTORY." By W. H. Moreland. (London: Macmillan and Co. 15s. net.)

What were the conditions of foreign trading in India and in the East generally, what was the economic position in India of the noble, the merchant, the artisan, the cultivator, respectively, in the first sixty years of the seventeenth century? Such were the questions which the author set himself to answer in the present volume, which is a continuation of the study of Indian economic history begun in his "India at the Death of Akbar."

The long unchallenged supremacy of Portugal in the trade of the East had passed away, and had been succeeded by the predominance of the Dutch. How complete that predominance was in the first half of the seventeenth century, particularly from the year 1625 onwards, and how great were the difficulties encountered by English merchants in consequence of Dutch jealousy and Dutch hostility, is clearly demonstrated in these pages. Not only were the Dutch first in the field, but they had greater pecuniary resources, and they were able, from Batavia as a base, to establish a monopoly of the spice trade, and hence to engross the trade to Japan and China, from which they drew supplies of silver and gold for their Indian trade. Moreover, they possessed the immense advantage of a central administration in the East, which their British rivals lacked, in their Governor-General and Council at Batavia; and they were fortunate in the emergence, at a critical period, "of a really great man, the masterful and ruthless Jan Pietorzoon Coen, who, first as director of the factories in Java, and then as Governor-General, may fairly be said to have dominated the Eastern seas." The result was a thoroughly sound administration, strict discipline, and the prompt suppression of private trade. In the English factories, on the contrary, discipline was lax and the abuse of private trade abounded, owing to the vicious system of underpaying the Company's servants, a system which continued until it was finally suppressed by Clive a century and a half later.

Mr. Moreland is not content to trace the gradual progress from the single voyage to the factory, and from the factory to the fort, but proceeds to show how the local conditions of trade and the local Governments' disregard of Imperial farmans made the development inevitable. Incidentally he establishes the little-known fact that the institution of mercantile extra-territoriality was not begun by European merchants, but was everywhere recognised in the ports of India in the early years of the fifteenth century in the case of Arab and Egyptian merchants.

Similarly, while the change of the principal article in commercial request for export from India from indigo to saltpetre, and from saltpetre to cotton goods, during the period under review is clearly brought out, the causes of the destruction of the indigo trade, first adulteration and then American competition, are fully discussed, and are clearly established by quotation from contemporary documents. Much light is thrown on the question of the proportion borne by the English and Dutch trade to the total trade of India, as well as on the question how far the Western traders benefited the Indian producer. In this connection there is an interesting and instructive account of the extraordinary commercial ascendancy attained between the years 1619 and 1665 by the native merchant Pirji Borah, who was reputed to be the richest merchant in the world, not only in Surat but in all Indian markets.

Chapter v. is devoted to trade statistics, the compilation of which displays the author's ingenuity, pertinacity, and research; though in one or two cases the compilation rests on so many fluctuating and uncertain values that the task of compiling it appears somewhat as though one should essay to write a treatise on billiards from observation of the performance of "a twisted cue on a cloth untrue, with elliptical billiard balls."

The most arresting feature of the work, however, is the powerful picture drawn in chapters vi., viii., and x. of the utter and hopeless misery of the condition of the peasants, servants, and workmen alike, under the oppression caused by the short-term Farming system of taxation, and by the increase of Akbar's demand of one-third of the gross produce of the soil to Jahangir's and Shahjahan's demand of one-half. Readers of these chapters will look with other eyes on the exquisite beauty of the Taj Mahal, which cost over 10 millions sterling, wrung from cultivators "on the border line of starvation or rebellion."

Enough has been said to indicate that the book is a valuable contribution to the comprehension of the Mogul period, whether for the general reader or for the student. It is amply documented and well arranged, and it has two useful maps and a satisfactorily complete index. The form is excellent, and the proof-reading has been so careful that a close scrutiny has been able to detect only two slight misprints, "affected" for "effected" on page 279, and "Pervanis," apparently for "Persianis," in a note on page 346.

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By W. H. MORELAND, C.S.I., C.I.E., Author of "India at the Death of Akbar," etc. 8vo. 15s. net.

The *Spectator*:—"Mr. Moreland's learned and well written book illuminates the history of seventeenth-century India, but it is also a most valuable, though indirect, tribute to the British RAJ of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."

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No reasonable person will cavil at Mr. Moreland's decision to retain the old spellings of technical trade terms, while in other cases he adopts the Hunterian system. But it is hard to find any justification for calling the great Portuguese administrator "Alboquerque." It can hardly be a misprint, because it appears in the Index and in two or three passages besides. Not only is there the tradition of four centuries against it, but the most recent works of reference continue to print it "Albuquerque," and modern families of the name now living in Portugal spell it in the same way.

N. L. Hallward.

THREE NOVELS.

"THE MAN BEHIND." By G. B. Burgin. (London: Hutchinson. 7s. 6d. net.)
"TOYS." By the Ranee of Sarawak. (London: Murray. 7s. 6d. net.)
"DESERT JUSTICE." By Kathlyn Rhodes. (London: Hutchinson. 7s 6d. net.)

"The Man Behind" was the first that we had read of Mr. Burgin's sixty-seven novels. We began at once to be interested in Anthony setting out to seek his fortune, and we became still more interested when, accompanied by the mysterious Marcovitch, he starts for Constantinople to be assistant editor of *The Pera Patriot*. In Constantinople the adventures—it is the time of the rising of the Young Turks—come thick and fast, but there is never any doubt that Marcovitch will steer him through to safety and happiness.

The work is all very pleasant and effective, but it is not at all carefully finished. We were haunted by recollections of an adventure story about Constantinople by Fortuné de Boisgobey, where the incidents certainly called for an effort of credulity on the reader's part, which Mr. Burgin would not think of demanding, but where all the loose ends were so nicely tucked away and nothing was left only half explained. This involuntary comparison added to our sense that the author is not playing fair when he leaves a character trapped underground, with no apparent means of escape, and next refers to him casually in the sentence: "Sherif Pasha, who had escaped from the great cistern, endeavoured," etc. And although it is, of course, very satisfactory that Marcovitch turns out to be no poor Polish refugee, but a wealthy Count, and that "there isn't a Chancellerie in the world but could tell you something about him, and that something always to his credit," it is a little too vague and casual. All the same, we never lost our interest in the fortunes of Anthony, and the chapter where the editor of *The Pera Patriot* so calmly dines with the Turk who has kidnapped him is a joy. Mr. Burgin does not hesitate to laugh at his own method of drugging a character when in any doubt. He makes Anthony say, "It's like the hen and the egg. . . . Was coffee first invented as a vehicle for enabling Turks to get rid of one another, or were the Turks invented in order to get rid of the coffee and themselves at the same time?"

"Toys" consists of four short stories about two Malay girls and two English girls respectively, strung together by the idea that the same soul inhabits each of the heroines in turn. Souls are to be considered as God's "toys," which are redressed and put afresh in the "toyshop window" for His amusement. The soul which is made for Sudarah, after passing through Serini and staying for a time in the body of Susannah, is "broken" when Elissa is murdered by one of the two brothers with whose love she has played. The whole thing seems to us to be a rather bombastic travesty of the theory of re-incarnation. The stories themselves are told with sufficient skill to leave a definitely unpleasant impression. The last one might provide what the cinema-seeking soldier in *Punch* called "a 'alf-hour's hemotion." Remarks such as "And God gave a low chuckle that was like the rumbling of thunder. His toys were amusing Him just then," do not help to place them on a higher level. "The Monkey" at the beginning and "The Old Woman" at the end give a comic touch which is refreshing, however unintentional.

Keith Fraser has killed Victor Lancing in order to prevent his folly from causing several deaths. The affair is hushed up, and Fraser comforts himself with the thought that it was as much an accident as his shot which caused the tragedy. But, with the inevitable coincidence of this type of plot, the girl with whom he falls in love had been engaged to Lancing.. When she discovers that her former lover was killed by Fraser it is impossible for him to clear himself by explaining that Lancing caused the trouble by his treacherous philandering with the daughter of his Arab host. So he goes sadly away, and the further coincidence of his likeness to his victim fills up a few chapters until the whole truth is disclosed. These circumstances, set out in a manner more subdued than is customary with Miss Rhodes, and eked out with an underplot concerning the domestic troubles of the hero's friend, make up "Desert Justice." The scenes are in Egypt and Italy. There is also a little girl who nearly dies of fever—a device for the heightening of sentiment that did a good deal to prejudice us against a story which may be said to carry out a somewhat ingenious idea conscientiously.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"The Fifty-Second (Lowland) Division, 1914-1918." By Lieut.-Col. R. R. Thompson, M.C. Maps and plans compiled from official sources and drawn by Captain J. B. Ramsey. (Glasgow: Maclehose, Jackson, and Co. 10s. 6d. net.)

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

Anglo-Persian Results.

The report of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company is always eagerly awaited in the City, but on this occasion special interest attaches to it on account of the somewhat marked fall in the price of the shares and the rumour that the Government had under consideration an offer for its holding. The fall in the prices of oil products has, of course, affected all the oil companies, but the report shows that this factor has not been alone in affecting the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. It is pointed out, for one thing, that the results of drilling operations outside Persia have so far proved unsatisfactory, and for another, that the output of the refinery in Persia during the period under review has been disappointing owing to the effect of the fire, reference to which was made in the last report, and to defects in the plant due to continuous running during the war period. Leaving out of account these factors, it cannot be said that the results obtained by the company are other than satisfactory. The profits are reduced, it is true, but to nothing like the extent that might be imagined from the halving of the dividend, and as the company could scarcely stand in a stronger position than it does, it hardly needs to be emphasised that at their present quotation the ordinary shares are much undervalued, taking into consideration future prospects and the certainty that oil prices are not likely to remain at a low level for an indefinite period.

The Position.

Turning to the figures, the gross profit of the company stands at £3,225,563, as compared with £3,893,863, and to this total has to be added other income, £40,706, as against £94,301, giving a total gross revenue of £3,266,269, as compared with £3,988,164. Debenture interest this time takes £235,937, as against £242,187; the royalty to the Persian Government is £317,670, as against £422,351; while income-tax at £9,699 is £172,200 down, the net profit being £2,689,143, as compared with £3,130,381. Out of this total £495,000 is allocated for extra depreciation, and £100,000 for reserves, leaving £2,094,143, as compared with £2,130,381. The balance of £1,336,409 was brought in, the available balance being thus £3,430,552, as compared with £3,779,173. The dividend on the preference shares will this time absorb £875,000, as against £795,000, while the proposed ordinary dividend of 10 per cent. will absorb £777,764, as against £1,245,000, leaving £1,777,788 to be carried forward.

The Election.

It would be idle to pretend that the City was unperturbed at the result of the election. The quotations for election risks reflected the very general view that Mr. Baldwin's Administration would be returned, possibly with a reduced majority, but certainly with one strong enough to carry out the policy that he had laid before the country. Now, instead of the stable Government that seemed a foregone conclusion, we are faced with a period of instability, the end of which can scarcely be surmised. In the circumstances it is not perhaps a matter of surprise that a very dull tendency should have developed on the Stock Exchange. It goes without saying that the result has caused considerable disappointment in the Dominions, but if it may be assumed that what has been already proposed by the Government will not suffer owing to the alteration in the strength of the parties we shall have the satisfaction of knowing that a very substantial contribution has been made to the cause of Empire development.

Engineering in the Sudan.

The account, which will be found in another column, of the pumping plant erected in connection with the Gezira scheme this summer throws an interesting light on the comprehensive character of the works of development which are now in progress in the Sudan. It is aptly pointed out in the annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government that, with the completion of the Gezira scheme, "a new chapter will open in the economic history of the Sudan."

British Burmah Petroleum.

Considering the disadvantageous circumstances encountered, the report of the British Burmah Petroleum Company for the year ended July 31 must be regarded as distinctly satisfactory. The company had to face the handicap of lower prices for some of its most important products, while there was a serious strike of Burmese labour at the oilfield, but, despite these difficulties, the disposable profit amounted to £152,800, as compared with £114,000, and the dividend is again 7½ per cent., free of tax. As a result of improvements in plant, there was a distinct advance on the previous year in the bulk of saleable products extracted, and it is stated that this, with reductions in working costs at the refinery, would have been reflected in the year's accounts but for the lower prices. Developments on the Singu field continue to be satisfactory, but no discovery of importance has yet been made in the Comodoro Rivadavia oilfield of the Argentine by the undertaking with which the company is associated.

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COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Anglo-Persian.

The report of the directors of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Ltd., for the year ended March 31 last states that the net profits were £2,689,143, against £3,130,381 in the preceding year, while £1,336,409 was brought forward, making a total of £4,025,552. The sum of £100,000 is again placed to debenture stock redemption reserve, while £495,000, as against £400,000, is allocated for extra depreciation. After allowing for the preference dividends for the year, it is proposed to pay a dividend on the ordinary shares for the year of 10 per cent., leaving a balance of £1,777,788 to be carried forward, subject to E.P.D. (if any) for the year ended March 31, 1921, and corporation profits tax for the year under review. The directors have applied £1,830,000, which stood at the credit of general reserve at March 31, 1922, as follows: (a) £964,000 in writing down certain investments and expenditure in respect of prospecting and testing certain areas outside of Persia which have now been abandoned; and (b) £856,000 as a specific provision against expenditure on other outside areas which are still in course of examination. The general reserve created out of the profits of previous years was available for such purposes, and the foregoing provisions will, in the directors' opinion, cover any further writing down that may be necessary in connection with the company's current operations outside of Persia. The aggregate value of the assets, including the concession, is, in the opinion of the directors, considerably in excess of book values.

The main programme of the company's distributing organisations has been completed, and a satisfactory off-take of the company's products is now being obtained. The output of the refinery in Persia during the year and subsequently has been disappointing. Not only were the effects of the fire referred to in the last report more far-reaching than was at first anticipated, but defects in the plant, due to continuous running during the war period, became apparent and necessitated stoppages. Moreover, the work entailed in remedying these conditions and in completing the extensions in progress has been seriously hampered by outbreaks of cholera and plague.

The refinery at Llandarcy continues to give satisfactory results, and the throughput has shown a steady increase. The plant necessary to deal with a portion of the throughput on a fully refined basis, i.e., for the manufacture of lubricating oils, wax, and other by-products in addition to fuel oil, petrol and kerosene, has now been installed and is to some extent in operation. Plant is also in course of erection to deal with light distillates from the refinery in Persia, leaving the heavy distillates for the Eastern fuel oil markets, where better prices are obtainable. The refinery erected by one of the companies with which the company is associated in France has been completed and is working satisfactorily. The refineries now being erected in Scotland and in Australia are approaching completion and are expected to be in operation early next year.

Production from the Persian fields operated by the subsidiary companies has been well maintained during the period, and is now being increased to deal with the expanding off-take of the company's refineries. Test drilling in an entirely different area indicates the existence of a new oilfield which it is intended for the time being to hold as a reserve. Results of drilling operations outside of the original Persian concession have so far proved unsatisfactory. In the case of the Argentine, two of the areas on which test drilling has been conducted have been definitely abandoned, but work is meantime being continued on the other two areas. The fleet of tank steamers has worked satisfactorily during the year. The ordinary general meeting will be held at Winchester House, E.C., on December 17, at noon.

British Burmah Petroleum.

The report of the British Burmah Petroleum Company, Ltd., for the year ended July 31 shows a balance transferred from revenue account of £224,253, as compared with £208,893 for the previous year. Adding agency fees £2,820, dividend on shares in Rangoon Oil Company £3,779, interest £18,428, transfer fees £434, and difference in exchange £567, there is a total credit of £250,281. Sundry charges in Burma, Bombay, and London absorbed £64,881, interest on Debenture stocks £71,515, and depreciation £40,356, leaving a surplus of £73,529, as against £69,962. After adding the net balance brought in, £3,490; surplus on realisation of investments, £1,661; and refunds in respect of taxes, £74,167, a disposable profit is shown of £152,849, compared with £114,017. The directors recommend a balance dividend of 4½d. per share, making 7½d., tax free, for the year, placing to sinking funds accounts £67,000 and to reserve and contingent reserve £5,000, leaving £3,014 to be carried forward. Of £40,355 set aside for depreciation, £14,039 will be credited to refinery accounts and £26,316 to field accounts. In addition, £51,308 of the expenditure at the field on drilling and well sites has been charged to revenue. During the year first mortgage debenture stock of the nominal value of £313,694 has been drawn for redemption, and with the exception of a small amount still to be paid off has been cancelled, leaving £211,214 outstanding. The expenditure at the refinery charged to capital account for the year is £25,131, and at the field £106,322.

The period covered by the accounts has, the report continues, been a difficult one, on account of the serious strike of the Burmese labour at the oil field and in consequence of the lower prices obtained for some important products. The working was also handicapped by extensive alterations and improvements which were proceeding at the refinery. The strike seriously interfered with development and production work at the field, but the throughput of crude oil at the refinery was increased by drawings on stocks. As a result of improved efficiency there was a distinct advance in the bulk of saleable products extracted. This, together with reductions in working costs at the refinery, would have been reflected in the accounts but for the lower prices referred to. Efforts are being continued to augment the efficiency of the refinery by the introduction of further improved methods of manufacture, as a result of which the directors are confident that, given the necessary supplies of crude oil and a recovery in prices, a better return will accrue. Apart from the setback caused by the strike, operations at the field were pushed forward with vigour, and the increased development of the Singu field has fully justified itself by results. It is regretted that no discovery of importance has yet been made in the Comodoro Rivadavia oilfield of the Argentine by the undertaking with which this company is associated. One large gas well has been struck, but only traces of oil have been so far disclosed by the other wells drilled. Two additional wells are now being sunk under the advice of that company's consulting engineer, Mr. Campbell M. Hunter, and further good wells have recently been brought in by a company operating in an adjoining property. The meeting will be held at Cannon Street Hotel on December 18 at noon.

It is reported that the production of crude oil in the Baku fields during September was approximately 18,300,000 poods.

The Bank of England announce the numbers of 536 Four per Cent. Egyptian Government Irrigation Trust certificates drawn for redemption on January 1.

The *Central European Observer* states that the Bucharest Municipality is negotiating with an American financial syndicate for a loan of ten million dollars.

H.M. Vice-Consul at Constantza reports that there is a possible market for accessories specially adapted for the makes of cars, especially the Ford, in use in the Dobrudja.

The directors of the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway Company recommend a final dividend of 4 per cent., together with a bonus of 2 per cent. on the Ordinary stock, payable January 28, making 11 per cent. per annum, less tax.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES.

Country.	Method of Quoting.	Parity of Exchange	Latest Quotations.
Alexandria ...	Piastres to £.....	97½	97⅜ 97$\frac{9}{16}$
Athens	Drachmae to £...	25.22½	220-230
Belgrade	Dinars to £	25.22½	375-390
Berlin	Marks to £	20.43	—
Berne	Francs to £	25.22½	25.00-25.02
Bombay	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{16}$-1.5$\frac{3}{32}$
Brussels	Francs to £	25.22½	94.55-94.65
Bucharest	Lei to £.....	25.22½	840-850
Budapest	Kronen to £	24.02	80-95,000
Calcutta	Sterling to Rupee	24d.	1.5$\frac{1}{16}$-1.5$\frac{3}{32}$
Constantinople	Piastres to £ ...	110	800-820
New York	Dollars to £.....	4.86 2-3	4.36½
Paris	Francs to £	25.22½	81.65 81.75
Prague	Kronen to £.....	24.02	149½
Rome	Lire to £	25.22½	100⅝-100½
Sofia	Leva to £	25.22½	580-620
Teheran	Krans to £	—	46
Vienna	Kronen to £.....	24.02	306-313,000
Warsaw	Marks to £.....	20	15,000,000*

* Nominal.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY
FOUNDED 1895.

	Levas
Capital paid up - - - - - -	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1922	93,400,000
Premium Income during 1922 - - -	98,300,000
Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed	300,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN THE SUDAN.

The annual report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for 1922-3, which has recently been issued, devotes, as might be expected, a good deal of attention to the work now in progress for the development of the Gezira and of the Eastern Sudan. With the Gezira irrigation scheme in successful operation, it is emphasised that a new chapter will open in the economic history of the Sudan :—

> The substitution of an assured water supply for the vagaries of an unreliable rainfall, and the steady production year by year of large quantities of a valuable and readily saleable commodity such as cotton, will revolutionise conditions in the Gezira, and will profoundly affect the whole of the northern and central parts of the country, and in many ways the scheme will make its influence felt in regions much further afield.

The opening up of the Eastern Sudan by the Kassala railway will afford, it is pointed out, a still further insurance against the risks attendant on an unreliable rainfall. While the primary object of the railway is to enable the Gash delta area to be put under cotton, it is also bound to stimulate trade in other produce of the country, and should, it is thought, lead to the development of the cultivation of rain-grown cotton on the fertile rainlands of the southern part of Kassala Province. :—

> The linking up of these hitherto untapped eastern districts with the economic system of the rest of the Sudan will immensely strengthen the basis of production, and when, in the future, this railway has been extended southwards through Gedaref and Mafaza to connect with the main line at Makwar, the foundations of the country's fortunes will have been finally established.

Trade conditions in 1922 were not very different from those which obtained in the previous year. Trade was still finding its level after the boom year of 1920, and while the decline in the volume of external trade in 1922 was small compared with that of the previous year, it was none the less appreciable, the total being £E6,777,000, as against £E8,379,000. From the results since the commencement of this year it is evident that 1922 witnessed the end of the trade decline. For the first nine months of 1923 there was a rise in both imports and exports. The public imports amounted in value to £E2,049,449, as compared with £E1,743,458, the Government imports falling in value from £E1,361,016 to £E1,118,694, while the exports amounted to £E2,105,362, as against £E1,633,745, the respective totals for the period being £E5,404,736 and £E4,964,160.

Turning to production, it is interesting to note the table given in the report showing the estimated area under cotton (in feddans) from 1917 to 1922. The total for 1922 was slightly in advance of the 1921 figures at 84,273, as compared with 81,430, but is some way below the 1917 total of 88,670. This is due to the fact that, while the area of cotton grown under artificial irrigation has steadily advanced from 8,366 in 1917 to 24,058 in 1922 (the 1921 figures being 17,542). the area of cotton grown on flood land and on rainland is now much below what it was in 1917.

The export of cotton and seed in 1922 was somewhat below the level of the previous year, while the value was £E405,233, as compared with £E444,892. The quantity of lint exported was 24,240 bales, as against 27,670 bales for 1921. How the export has varied may be gathered from the fact that the total for 1911 was 22,823 bales, and for 1918, 11,263. The decrease in the year under review was due to a smaller crop in Tokar.

There was a satisfactory advance in the export of gum, the total being 14,569 tons, which, it is pointed out, is very nearly up to the pre-war average. Its value, it is worth noting, was equivalent to 27 per cent. of the total value of Sudan exports. The number of cattle exported was only slightly below that of the preceding year, and would, it is thought, have shown a considerable improvement but for the stoppage of the export trade to Egypt for two months.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

Egypt.

Pumping Machinery.—The Director-General, Mechanical Department, M.P.W., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply and erection of pumping machinery required for Qassassin Pumping Station, Qassassin. December 17.

Water-Metres.—The Director-General, Cairo Tanzim Department, P.W.M., Cairo, invites tenders for the supply of the following :—50 water-metres (half inch), 50 water-meters (three-quarter inch), 50 water-metres (one inch). Supply to be made within six weeks from date of order. Delivery free of all charges at Helwan. January 12.

General Stores.—The Secretary-General Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of general stores for 1924-1925. January 21.

CZECHO-SLOVAK FLOUR LOAN REDEMPTION.

It is reported from Prague that the Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Finance has decided to pay the last instalment of the flour loan amounting to £401,081, together with interest, about the middle of December. The so-called flour loan was raised in England by Dr. Hotowetz, the former Czecho-Slovak Minister of Commerce, for the purchase of Chinese flour, the amount of the loan being two million pounds sterling. On receipt of the first consignment the sum of £1,000,000 was paid back. With regard to the remaining million, it was decided that Czecho-Slovakia should pay 500,000 pounds sterling on September 30, 1923, and the remainder on March 31, 1924. The Czecho-Slovak Ministry of Finance, however, paid back the first part, i.e., £500,000, on August 31, one month before it was due.

The Greek Chamber of Commerce in Alexandria is understood to be contemplating the organisation of a commercial and industrial exhibition of Greek and foreign products.

Steaua Romana (British), Ltd., are advised that the approximate fields' gross production of the Steaua Romana Company (Bucharest) for the month of November was 18,190 tons.

The *Ost Express* states that it is the intention of the Soviet Government to establish a free port at Batoum. A regular shipping service between Batoum and Greek ports has been inaugurated.

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NEAR EAST MARKET REPORTS.

The following extracts are taken from the monthly circular of the Imperial Ottoman Bank:—

Beyrout.—The market was very quiet during the whole of the last quarter. Traders from the interior and from neighbouring countries have not yet begun their usual purchases, thus causing a noticeable stoppage in business. Nevertheless, there is hope of an improvement during the next quarter, thanks to the Customs agreements concluded with certain neighbouring countries such as Transjordania.

Tripoli.—The market was fairly animated during the last quarter owing to the rise in cotton and silk prices and to the exportation of agricultural products: barley, beans, chick-peas, lemons. The building of the timber pier in the harbour is being actively pursued.

The Government of the Great Lebanon has appointed a commission to inquire into the proposed construction of a railway line between Beyrout and Tripoli, a distance of about 90 kilometres.

Lattakie.—The tobacco crop is normal: 600,000 kilogs pipe tobacco and 5/600,000 kilogs cigarette tobacco. Tombac (used in narghilehs) is estimated to yield 200,000 kilogs, or a quarter of the pre-war production. The commercial value of tobacco and tombac may reach £Syr.250/300,000 or £65/75,000.

The olive crop promises to be comparatively abundant, with an increase of 30 to 40 per cent. on that of last year. The quantity of oil is estimated at 6/700,000 kilogs, more than half of which is exported; the rest is used locally, principally by the soap-making industry.

Baghdad.—The market in general is quiet. The recent increase in the Customs import duties on sugar, tea, coffee, and fermented liquors, etc., the object of which is to compensate a deficit in the 1923 Budget, has brought about a relative increase in the prices of these commodities. The raising within only six months of the Customs dues on articles of prime necessity has caused a certain amount of consternation among the business communities as well as among the public in general. According to the new scale of rates the duties on loaf and crystal sugar is raised to Rs.3 per kilo, or nearly 33 per cent. The piece goods market remains steady. No important sales were effected during the month under review.

The Egyptian cotton crop of the current season is estimated at 5,844,000 kantars.

The production of the Dacia Romano Petroleum Syndicate, Ltd., for November amounted to 1,130 tons.

The ordinary general meeting of the Associated Cotton Ginners of Egypt will be held at Alexandria on December 28.

The ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia will be held at the Cannon Street Hotel on December 21 at 12.30 p.m.

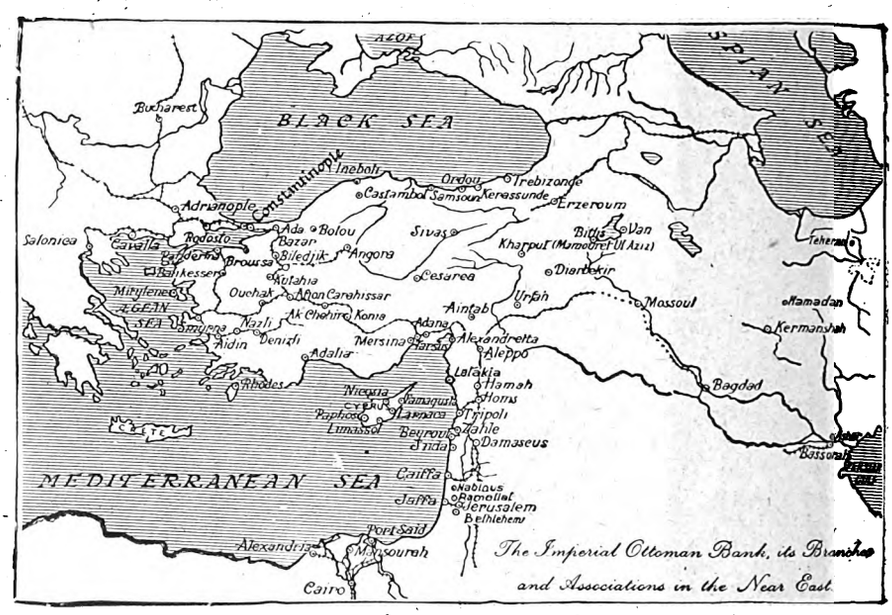
Anglo-Egyptian.—Gemsah (week ended December 7), 9 tons (last week, 1 ton). Hurghada (week ended December 7), 2,631 tons (last week, 2,992 tons).

Anglo-Persian Oil Co.—Transfer books and register of holders of 5 per cent. debenture stock will be closed from December 17 to 31, inclusive, for the preparation of interest warrants for the half-year, payable December 31.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

Pumping Installations in the Gezira.

While the objects of the Gezira scheme have been fully described in these columns, some aspects of the engineering side of the undertaking are of special interest, and, through the courtesy of Messrs. W. H. Allen and Co., Ltd., I am able to give a description of the important pumping plant which they have recently installed in the Sudan. This pumping station, the fourth and the largest in the Gezira, situated at Wad-el-Nau, which lies between the pumping stations at Hag Abdalla and Barakat, was completed in June. Irrigation by means of the pumping stations is generally carried on during nine months of the year, from about July 15 to April 15, and, owing to the high atmospheric temperature of the day, all pumping is done at night between the hours of 9 p.m. and 9 a.m. The whole Gezira irrigation scheme, as outlined by Sir Murdock Macdonald, is now being completed; it comprises a stupendous engineering undertaking. The dam at Makwar, a few miles south of Senaar, which, it is contemplated, will be completed in 1926, will be one of the greatest engineering constructions of its kind in the world. The main irrigation canal leading from the Makwar Dam to that part of the plain to be irrigated, and the smaller irrigating canals are nearly completed. A portion of the canal system is now in use conveying water from the four pumping stations.

Wad-el-Nau Pumping Station.

In the early part of 1922 a start was made on the erection of the pumping station at Wad-el-Nau, which station is situated about 180 ft. from the river bank on the west side of the Blue Nile. It was determined that the quantity of water required from this station should be approximately 52,000 gallons per minute. Owing to the distance of Wad-el-Nau from the main irrigation canal, which flows from the dam at Makwar to Wad Medani, it was necessary to construct a feeder canal, and it was decided that the water should be pumped from the station to the feeder canal through a rising main nearly half a mile long. This determined the head, namely 83.6 ft., against which the pumps had to work. It was further decided that, owing to the difficulty of obtaining coal or wood for fuel, that Diesel oil engines should be installed for driving the pumps, and that they should be three in number, each pump to be capable of delivering 26,000 gallons of water per minute, two working together and one set as spare.

Great care has to be exercised in choosing a site for a pumping station on the Nile, which, by reason of its constantly changing course, is liable, where an unsuitable site has been selected, to leave the suction wells high and dry. As an illustration of this, on the opposite shore to that on which the Wad-el-Nau station stands is a very large sand-bank, extending in width at least 200 yards from the original bank of the river.

Excavation for the building of the station, which is 194 ft. long and 31 ft. wide, and the suction wells in the river was started in February, 1922. In both cases it was a race against time, as the wells had to be completed before the rise started in June; while the building had to be finished and the excavations filled in to protect the building before flood time in July and August. The maximum depth was 46 ft. over a length of about 260 ft. and a width of some 68 ft., but the width at the top had to be increased to about 176 ft., to allow for the natural slope of the sides of the excavation, with the result that in all approximately 65,000 tons of soil had to be removed. The whole of the work was manual, the material being removed in wickerwork baskets, each holding about 1 cwt. of soil, and of which three would be carried out at a time by one man. The main foundations consisted of a bed of concrete 8 ft. 3 in. deep under the whole building, with an additional 8 ft. 3 in. on top of this under the main engines, while the walls were 14 ft. thick at the bottom, but stepped to 3 ft. 3 in. at the top. It is of interest to note that all the bricks were made in kilns, within a few yards of the site, by native labour, and although a little irregular in shape, were of excellent quality and well suited to the purpose. The building was ready for the installation of the plant in October, and, to avoid too great a pressure on the new walls, the water was allowed to rise in the building until the drop of the Nile in September.

Main Pumping Machinery.

The main pumping machinery consists of three Diesel engines, each capable of giving off 950 b.h.p. running at a speed of 150 revolutions per minute. Each engine is of the vertical four-stroke cycle system. The cylinders are bolted down by means of long bolts, which pass straight from the cylinder flanges right down to the bedplate near the main bearings. By this arrangement the main stresses in the engine are taken up at the most suitable places, and as the crank-case acts merely as a distance piece and to support the cylinders, inspection doors of ample proportions are provided giving great accessibility to the main bearings.

The design embodies the supply of forced lubrication to the main bearings, connecting rods and pistons, the latter being oil cooled. This system has been adopted inasmuch as the lubrication of the most essential parts is automatic, and the piston cooling prevents the heating of pistons. The attention required when the engine is running is reduced to a minimum. The crank chamber is totally enclosed. The engine bedplate is made with a solid bottom in which the used lubricating oil collects and is drawn off by a pump. At each end is a bearing, and in addition there is a bearing between each set of cranks. All bearings are lined with white metal. The crankshaft is made from a solid Siemens Martin steel forging. The shaft is supplied with an outside bearing to take the weight of the fly-wheel, and provided with a flexible coupling. The cylinders are built up in two pieces—the liner and the jacket. The liners are made of a special mixture of cast-iron. The pistons are of the trunk type, and are made of hard, close-grained iron. The top end is built as a special chamber through which the cooling oil is circulated. The gudgeon pins are of mild steel, case-hardened. The connecting rods are forged of Siemens Martin mild steel. The large end is provided with adjustable cast steel bearings fitted with white metal, and the small end has bronze bearings.

The cylinder covers are, like the piston and liner, made of a special mixture of cast-iron, and are designed so as to avoid casting stresses being set up due to the unequal expansion of the metal under the heat generated in the cylinders. They are provided with ample cooling water spaces carefully placed so as to give the greatest cooling effect where it is most needed. The covers contain the starting valve, the fuel valve, the air inlet valve, and the exhaust valve. All the valves are fitted vertically and in loose boxes made of a special mixture of cast-iron. The valves are fitted in

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such a way that they can be easily removed for cleaning purposes. The valves are of forged steel, and the exhaust valve is made with a loose seat of cast-iron. The exhaust valve box is water cooled. The fuel valve is of an improved type, which opens inwards. The injection from the valve is in the form of a hollow cone, and is designed to attain perfect combustion, high efficiency, and low fuel consumption, with the least attention and minimum of cleaning. The fuel supply to the cylinders is maintained by a separate pump unit, one pump to each cylinder. The air for fuel injection, etc., is provided by an air compressor in which the air is compressed in three stages and cooled in intercoolers between each stage of compression. It is worked directly from the crank shaft. The governor is a spring-loaded shaft governor placed on the vertical controlling shaft directly connected to the fuel pump, and regulates automatically the consumption of fuel oil at the different loads. It is fitted with adjusting gear to enable the revolutions to be varied while running. The camshaft in connection with the rocking levers serves for the opening of the valves, and is fitted horizontally in bearings provided with ring lubrication. The shaft is driven from the crankshaft by means of a vertical intermediate shaft and two sets of worm wheels. The cams are made of cast-iron. The flywheel is of ample weight and diameter to secure steady running of the engine, and is provided at the edge of its rim with a toothed rack for engagement with the pawls of the turning gear.

The main centrifugal pumps are three in number, and are of special design. Each pump has two casings, bolted together, being joined in series by means of a steel connecting pipe, while the two similar impellers are carried on one shaft. The duty of each pump is to deliver 2 cubic metres per second (or 26,000 gallons per minute), against a maximum total head of 83.6 ft., this head being based on the assumption that the water level in the river does not fall below 1,279 ft. above sea-level (at Alexandria), and that in the delivery canal does not rise to more than 1,349 ft. above the same. Two of the main centrifugal pumps are normally delivering together into the canal, the third set being a standby.

Auxiliary Machinery.

The auxiliary machinery of the station consists of two 50 h.p. semi-Diesel engines, driving, by means of friction clutches, 187 ft. of shafting fitted with ball-bearings and expansion couplings. These 50 h.p. engines are only used for starting purposes, after which the shafting is driven by the main engines. They are again used on shutting down, to maintain the circulation of the cooling water for the Diesel engines for a time. The shafting is used for driving the vacuum pumps, make-up pumps, the dynamos, and an air compressor for the initial charging of the air bottles. This auxiliary compressor has an approximate capacity of 11 cubic ft. of free air per minute at a pressure of 1,000 lbs. per square ft.

For the removal of silt from the cooling water a concrete settling tank was built near the junction of the three 40-in. discharge pipes, and was fed by a 6-in. branch from the same. After passing through the tank, alternately over and under a series of partitions, the water gravitates to steel tanks in the pumping station, which, in turn, supply the cooling water pumps. The visible outlets consist of funnels mounted on the top platforms of the main Diesel engines, and after passing through these, the water gravitates to tanks in the basement, which, to ensure that the pumps always remain fully charged, are maintained at constant level by means of a reflux valve fitted on the outlet side. These tanks are discharged by the warm water pumps to the river, and to prevent them overflowing and flooding the basement, a float chamber with electric alarm-gear is installed, whereby a bell is rung as soon as the water level reaches to within 3 in. of the top.

Charging Arrangements for Main Pumps.

The horizontal vacuum pumps used for charging the main 45-in. pumps are driven by belts from shafting and exhaust at the rate of 2,100 cu. ft. in ten minutes. They are connected by a 3-in. pipe with branches to three air vessels and pumps. To prevent water being drawn into the vacuum pumps and causing damage, a charging tank fitted with a ball valve was installed; while, to help to check any sudden rush of water, perforated diaphragms were also inserted in each of the three branches leading to this tank. Should water enter this, the ball valve closes, and the water is prevented from getting beyond this tank. In this case the system has to be drained. As an additional safeguard against the ball valve not working, a barometric pipe, rising to a height of nearly 40 ft. above supposed high-water level, was fitted above the charging tank. As the Nile rises some 40 ft. during the wet season, the varying conditions under which the vacuum pumps have to operate can readily be appreciated.

A drainage pump is installed in the engine room for the basement, which, being some 30 ft. below flood level, requires constant pumping out. The basement of the engine room runs the full length of each side of the building, the floor sloping in all directions to the sump. The drainage pump can also be run, as is necessary in flood time, when the main station is not working, by means of a cross-over connection, by the 15 h.p. semi-Diesel engine and dynamo in the workshop. For emergency use against the contingency of all current failing, an auxiliary hand-operated semi-rotary pump with 2 in. branches also draws from the same sump. As a standby for make-up purposes a small plunger pump of 2-in. bore is fitted, and of a capacity of about 2,000 gallons per hour against a maximum head of 120 ft.

Two 26 kw. dynamos, belt driven, are provided for supplying current for the electric lighting of all the buildings, roads, workshops, and living quarters, for the cooling water pumps, for the alarm gear on the warm water system, and for the fuel oil pumps. A 15 b.h.p. semi-Diesel engine and dynamo in the adjoining workshop supplies current for police lights in the main station, which can thus be lit before any of the engines have to be started.

(To be concluded.)

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

EMPIRE COTTON GROWING.

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the British Cotton-Growing Association, held at the offices, 333-350, Royal Exchange, Manchester, on December 4, at which Sir Frank Forbes Adam, Bart., C.B., C.I.E., presided, it was stated that a very encouraging report had been received from the Sudan. This season's crop is estimated at 35,000 bales of superior Sakellarides cotton, and 7,500 bales of long stapled American cotton, making the total production of cotton in the Sudan for the season, 42,500 bales.

Statements have recently been made to the effect that the boll weevil has made its appearance in Australia, and had this been the case it would have been a most serious matter for the future of cotton-growing there. As a result of careful inquiries made by the Association, however, a cablegram has been received from Colonel Evans, the expert who was sent to Australia by the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation, reading:—"No signs weevil Australia. Press confused with pink boll worm in Northern territory." So far as can be ascertained, there is no evidence of the existence of the boll weevil outside the continent of America.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Futures Firm.

The Alexandria Commercial Company, in its report for the week ended November 30, states:—

Since our last report the futures market has been very excited, but closes firm. This week's rise may be attributed to the strength of the New York market, to renewed activity from the textile centres, and to local heavy speculative buying. New York has risen continually, and the level of 36.62 c. has now been touched for January; taking into account to-day's rate of the dollar exchange, this quotation is equal to about $40.50 when comparing with prices of Egyptian. After a short respite, spinners have again been in the market and have bought fairly heavily during the last few days. The demand has come principally from Lancashire and to a smaller degree from the Continent; business with America has been rather quiet since the rise, but the fact that prices of Egyptian cotton are now so much dearer in comparison with Americans than was the case a month ago to some extent explains this falling-off in the demand. Local speculators have been very active and have committed themselves heavily on the "bull" side; this is, of course, a weak point in the position. The difference between Ashmouni and Sakel has further widened, but in view of this year's reduced supplies of Sakel and the large inquiry with which this variety has been favoured of late, we are of the opinion that we shall, later in the season, see a still wider difference. A feature of the week is the extremely heavy export, amounting to 53,905 b/s, making the total since September 1 295,274 b/s, against 274,319 b/s for the corresponding period last year. The statistical position is very strong; should export figures for the remainder of the season run on the basis of those of last year, it will mean that no cotton at all will remain in Egypt at the end of August. The week's receipts amount to 419,846 krs., against exports 407,557; the stock stands at 2,189,684 krs. Spot: We have had another good week's business at Minet-el-Bassal, and sales amount to about 31,300 bales, of which we estimate 19,300 b/s Sakel, 11,650 b/s Uppers, 200 b/s Brown and Pilion, and 150 b/s White. Arrivals continue heavy, but exports are on a large scale. The stock shows a slight increase from last week. Demand from abroad continues fairly good, but this week, with contracts at round the $50 level, holders have in a good many cases shown more readiness to meet the demand and have been less difficult to deal with.

Sakellarides: All styles have been dealt in, with the medium qualities claiming most attention. There has been a little more inquiry for low grades, prices of which are relatively fairly reasonable, but good and better have been rather neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are without much change for good fair and upwards, but below good fair they are considerably easier.

Uppers.—There has been business in all grades, without much change from last week's prices of spot against contracts except for F.F. and below, which are rather cheaper.

Brown and Pilion.—A small business has been done. Spot prices as against contracts are without change except for F.F. and below, which have eased somewhat.

White.—A moderate business has been done without much change in prices as against contracts.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Inquiry on Moderate Scale.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 5:—

Egyptian Spot.—The past week has seen but little interest taken in the spot market, attention being chiefly concentrated on "futures," in which great activity has been displayed. As we have hinted more than once in some of our later reports, the high figures reached in Egyptians had not been thoroughly assimilated by the trade, and the volume of actual business was beginning to show signs of falling off. At the first sign of a decline in the American market, which occurred last week-end, considerable uneasiness became apparent and violent fluctuations resulted, and, although our market has shown great power of recuperation, the tendency is still a downward one, and we close to-night with the spot price of Fully Good Fair Sakel 115 points lower on the week. The inquiry has been very moderate. Many spinners had recently booked their requirements for the next two months or so, and those who had not, have naturally had their confidence in current prices considerably shaken, and for the time being they are holding off as much as possible whilst waiting for the situation to become stabilised again. Under these conditions buying has been of a strictly hand-to-mouth character, and prices of Sakellaridis and Upper have become extremely irregular. The drop has brought out large quantities of speculation cotton, the holders of which readily accept prices well below the official quotations of the day in their anxiety to secure profits, and in competition with whom consignees who have had their cotton based on futures have stood little chance.

The only feature worthy of comment has been the almost total lack of interest displayed in Sakel cotton at anything over "100 on" January contracts. In Uppers, the range of prices is even more marked, "good" cotton being offered to-day at from 23d. to 25d. A small but steady demand continues for White Sudan, but there is little offering. Sudan Sakellaridis has been neglected. C.i.f. business has ruled quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 30th ult. were returned as 14,166 bales—a strong feature of the situation, when one regards it with a broad view, and we are still of the opinion that a spinner who buys cotton on a decline, such as we have just witnessed, will reap later considerable benefit by doing so. The local stock is steadily increasing, but a great proportion of the new arrivals are already ear-marked for spinners. Estimated sales 1,800 bales and 250 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis are reduced 115 points on the week. Uppers and Brown are 75 points lower. Fully Good Fair to-day 24.90d.

Yugoslavia's imports in 1922 amounted in value to 6,441 million dinars, as compared with 4,122 million dinars in 1921.

The *Trgovinski Glasnik* estimates the incidence of taxation under the new Yugoslav Budget at 850 dinars per head of the population.

Haifa's imports in September amounted in value to £E104,254, the value of the exports being £E38,865. Among the imports Army stores totalled £E24,628, ironware £E5,200, and cotton goods £E5,080, while in the list of exports gold coins totalled £E11,313 and lentils £E4,794.

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Consignments taken and all Commercial business transacted. Correspondence with Firms requiring information *re* commercial conditions is welcomed.

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Near East Markets.

BULGARIAN EXPORT PROSPECTS.

An interesting light is thrown on the present economic position in Bulgaria in an official bulletin which has just been issued, and from which we take the following extracts :—

According to the estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture this year's harvest is the best on record. It amounts to 22,483,000 quintals, as compared with 20,050,000 for the previous year. Before the war Bulgaria exported more than 25 per cent. of its harvest. To the total available for export it is necessary to add the surplus from previous harvests, so that it is possible this time to anticipate an export attaining 800,000 tons, as against 200,000 tons last year. But if this is the fortunate position of the Bulgarian granary the world position is discouraging for the Bulgarian agriculturist, who does not see sufficient buyers for his products. The reasons for this state of things are many. Without going into details some of the more important may be noted. The termination of the Grain Consortium in 1921 enabled the agriculturist to obtain a satisfactory price for his products, but the exchange stands at a level higher by 40 per cent. than that of 1922, and has brought about a marked fall in prices. Other factors that have had a similar effect are the development of American competition and that of Russia who offers wheat at a low price to be able to obtain foreign exchange, and lastly the surplus of the world's production of wheat, which is estimated at more than 90,000,000 quintals in excess of the total requirements. The grain market crisis, having brought the export trade almost to a standstill, has resulted in the development of an adverse trade balance. It is true that tobacco becomes more and more one of the most important heads in the export list, but for many years yet cereals will occupy the leading place in the foreign trade of the country. The value of the export of tobacco during the first ten months of 1922 was a milliard leva, while the cereals exported during the same period amounted in value to one and a half milliard leva. This was for 200,000 tons, and (as noted above) it is estimated that the available surplus for 1923 will amount to 800,000 tons.

The authorities have taken a series of measures to aid produce and to facilitate especially the export of cereals. The Council of Ministers has decreed reductions in the taxes on exports, going almost to the point of abandoning them. The Exchequer will suffer a loss on this account of 200 to 300 million leva. The Minister of Agriculture has approved the proposal of the Banque Agricole Bulgare with regard to credits for co-operatives on the security of the last harvest. The Minister of Finance has taken steps to grant, through the Banque Nationale, advances to cultivators embarrassed by foreign competition and the stagnation of the export trade. The bank will have at its disposal for this purpose 150,000,000 leva.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended November 24 :—

The arrivals of sultanas are estimated at 27,700 tons, and the sales at 25,700 tons. Quotations are slightly lower in relation to last week's closing level. This is due to variations in exchanges. The Turkish currency shows a tendency to depreciate. The tone of the market here remains strong.

AGRICULTURE IN IRAK.

The following particulars are taken from the Agricultural Bulletin of Irak for the period September 16 to October 15 :—

The condition of stock in general has improved with the advent of cooler weather. Fodder other than wheat and barley straw continues to be scarce except in rice cultivated areas. Repairs to the Hindiyah Barrage were in progress during the month, with the result that it was not possible to give the Hillah Canal and its distributaries their full quota of water. Summer crops in this area, and more especially the cotton crop, have materially suffered on account of shortage of water supply. In the Shamiyah and Abu-Sukhair areas the supply has been plentiful. The whole of the area controlled by the Sharaban Canal and the lower reaches of the Khalis Canal have suffered from an irregular and insufficient supply of water. In the Amarah area water supply is reported to be good on all canals. The rice crops in the Shamiyah and Amarah areas are in good condition though rather late maturing. Harvest of early varieties of rice is in progress.

The total deliveries of cotton at the Baghdad Ginnery are 363 tons of seed cotton, of which 85 tons have been ginned. Constant complaints of the severity of the boll-worm attack on cotton are being received. On investigation it is found that, in practically all such cases, the low yield of cotton is to be attributed to irregular and insufficient supply of irrigation water during the most critical period—July-August. A pest, recently discovered on hollyhock, which is almost indistinguishable from the pink boll-worm of cotton, has been identified as an allied species. Prices of wheat and barley continue to be exceptionally low. There is a general desire throughout the country to replace the cereal crop with more remunerative crops such as cotton, flax, and silk. Not until the necessary handling and marketing facilities are arranged for the flax and silk crops will it be possible to undertake their extensive cultivation. The July-August exports of wheat were 22,253 tons, and barley 16,203 tons; total, 48,456 tons, as compared with 13,710 tons for the same period last year.

Picking of Halawi dates, the earliest maturing commercial variety, was completed by end of September. The gross yield of the Halawi crop is about 40 per cent. below that of last year, and about 15 per cent. below the average for this variety. Khadrawi and Sayer date harvest is in progress, and both varieties are giving a good crop now estimated at about 10 per cent. above that of last year. Halawi date sales opened at Rs. 630 per kara of 5,400 lb., and closed at Rs. 560 at the end of September. These prices compare favourably with Rs. 640 and Rs. 250 respectively for the previous season. The fall in the price of Khadrawi, Sayer, and Zahdi is appreciably greater than in 1922, the closing prices (September) being Rs. 260, Rs. 100 and Rs. 300 respectively. A noticeable improvement has been effected in packing of dates for export. The small packer is being gradually eliminated from the trade. Date growers are beginning to appreciate the greater value of a good quality, early maturing, variety of date. The price of Halawi offshoots is about 50 per cent. higher than prices ruling in 1922. The export of dates during August was 151 tons as compared with 572 tons last year.

Mr. James Steuart, London manager of the Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., for the past ten years, has now been appointed chief manager of the bank

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 20 amounted to £E15,492, making the total from April 1 £E190,426.

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SUDAN PRODUCE.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Central Economic Board of the Sudan Government for October:—

Gum.

Kordofan Province.—6,353 kantars were sold in El Obeid market during the month of October, as against 53 kantars during the same month last year. The average price was £E1.155 per kantar. The arrivals at El Obeid from Nahud were 2,733 kantars, as against 482 kantars last year. The amount sold at Nahud during the month was 1,557 kantars, as against 128 kantars last year, the average price being P.T. 91 per kantar. At Rahad 8 kantars were sold at prices ranging from P.T. 90 to 95, as against nil during the corresponding month last year.

The Fung Province.—September. Local exports. 1,194 kantars of talh gum were exported from Karkoj. The market price of talh gum at Karkoj ranged from P.T. 25 to P.T. 30 per kantar. 49 tons of hashab and 91 tons of talh gum were exported by rail from Makwar River Siding.

White Nile Province.—288 kantars of gum were exported from Kosti.

Cotton.

Dongola Province.—Pumping station report, Gureir. Area of cotton crop, estimated, 400 feddans. Cotton is looking very well—far better than it did at this stage last season. It has been twice hoed, and is now quite clean. Bolls are now well formed, and there is a prospect of an excellent crop A little boll shedding has been noticed, but only in a few isolated places. Ghaba: Cotton is looking very healthy, and picking should be general in November. Nuri: Area of cotton crop, 711 feddans. Cotton is looking very well on the whole—it is flowering and bolling well. Gendettu: Area of cotton crop, 662.2 feddans. The cotton bolls formed early were practically all shed from various reasons, and those now opening are from later growths. There was less boll shedding on cotton sown in July than on the June-sown, and the former may eventually give better yields. The whole crop looks healthy, and yields should be good. Cotton weighed in to date amounts to 39 kantars of 315 rottles (unginned).

Red Sea Province.—Tokar: The usual haboobs are causing damage. It is hoped that over 40,000 feddans will ultimately be found to have been sufficiently watered to produce a crop.

Berber Province.—Pumping station report, Bouga: Area of cotton crop, 745 feddans. Cotton looks well on the whole, though it is patchy and late in places. Kitiab: Area of cotton crop, 636 feddans. Cotton picking is now general. The quality of the cotton is not at present very high, as most of it is from poorer Karu land. It will improve as the cotton from the better land matures. The cotton in Nuba Hanik and parts of Kitiab Island is of very strong growth, and promises to yield heavily unless badly attacked by pink boll-worm. There are some good patches of cotton in Gabrab, but, on the whole, this village is below the average, there being some very poor land on the lower canal. In Kitiab Island the cotton is very uneven, and has suffered considerably from the persistent growth of seed grass.

Dura.

The Fung Province.—45 tons of dura were exported by rail from Makwar River Siding in September, and 91 tons in October.

Dongola Province.—Gendettu pumping station report for October: Area of dura crop, 70.2 feddans. Dura has been cut and is threshing out well. The average yield will be about 7 ardebs of 420 rottles (189 kilos) per feddan.

Berber Province.—Bouga pumping station report: The average yield of grain was 3-5 ardebs of 300 rottles (135 kilos) per feddan. Mikeilab pumping station report for October: It is estimated that the average yield of dura was 3½-4 ardebs per feddan. One of the best yields was 8 ardebs of 420 rottles (189 kilos) per feddan.

Kordofan Province.—206 ardebs of dura from Nuba Mountains Province were sold in El Obeid market during the month at an average price of £1.150 m/ms. per ardeb of 420 rottles (189 kilos).

Halfa Province.—In Sukkot and Mahas districts the dura crops are being gathered.

Kassala Province.—Raincrops. Since the beginning of the month serious damage has been caused to early dura, principally feterita, both round Kassala and on the Butana section of the Atbara, by the Spanish sparrow, which arrived early in October. Similar damage is now reported from the Gedaref section of the Atbara, especially round Tomat and also from the Setit, so that what should have been a crop distinctly above the average has been turned into a very moderate one.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY'S NEW ROUTE TO THE EAST

It is reported from Hamburg (says the *Journal of Commerce*) that the shippers are so satisfied with the financial results of the voyage of the steamer Pionier, from Hamburg across Russia by river and canal to Persia, that the experiment is to be repeated. The voyage, as will be remembered, was facilitated by the Russian Government, and the Pionier, belonging to the Bolten Reederei, of Hamburg, went from that port to Petrograd, then proceeded along the Neva and Lake Lagoda, traversed the Marien Canal to the River Volga, whence she reached the Caspian Sea, and finally Enzeli. From the latter port her cargo was transported by motor lorries to Teheran in 1½ days. This means a considerable saving of time in the land transport, as it takes over a week for goods landed at Persian Gulf ports to reach Teheran by camel caravan.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 21).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mahsud for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 20); s.s. Holywell for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 21); s.s. Mulakuta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Oxfordshire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, December 19).

British India Line.—S.s. Dalgoma for Bombay and Karachi (London, December 22); s.s. Hatimura for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 25); s.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 4); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 5).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Sinclair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, January 3).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Brescia for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Liverpool, December 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Chester for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 17).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, December 29).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Bulgarian for Gibraltar, Piræus, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (London, December 19); s.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, January 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Incemore, for Piræus, Volo, Salonika, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 29); a steamer, closing on or about January 19, for all ports up to and including Constantza.

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Plassy for Bombay (London, December 14); s.s. Nankin for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 15); s.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 28); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. Stuart Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (Manchester, December 18).

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THE NEAR EAST.

No. 658—Vol. XXIV. THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1923.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Khalifate Letter.

The letter addressed by the Aga Khan and Mr. Ameer Ali to the Turkish Prime Minister on the subject of the Khalifate has given rise to a situation that the writers could not have foreseen. There is nothing in the letter itself to invalidate the claim that it "was designed to induce the Grand National Assembly to calm the general Moslem mind with regard to the position of the Khalifate and to prevent Islam from disintegration as a moral force." The Aga Khan occupies a high position in the Moslem world, and both he and Mr. Ameer Ali supported the Indian Khalifate movement, which, on the supposition that the position of the Khalif was endangered, ranged itself on the side of Angora in the latter's quarrel with Great Britain. It is not unnatural in the circumstances that, when it has been shown conclusively that, far from the Khalif's position being threatened by any British action, it has rather suffered at the hands of the Turks themselves, those who were prominently associated with the Khalifate movement should seek to justify their former attitude by continuing to display a practical interest in the affairs of the Khalifate. The signatories call the attention of General Ismet Pasha to "the diminution in the Khalif's dignity and prestige," and on the ground that in their opinion "any diminution in the prestige of the Khalif or the elimination of the Khalifate as a religious factor from the Turkish body politic would mean the disintegration of Islam and its practical disappearance as a moral force in the world," they urge upon the Grand National Assembly "the imminent necessity for maintaining the religious and moral solidarity of Islam by placing the Khalif-Imamate on a basis which would command the confidence and esteem of the Moslem nations."

Angora's Action.

Although the Turkish Government is within its rights in taking exception to the publication of the Aga Khan's letter in the Constantinople Press almost before there was time to consider it in Cabinet Council, responsibility attaches more to the signatories than to the newspapers, and it is evident that there are other motives for the drastic action taken against the three editors. The letter reached the Turkish Government at a moment when it was more than usually nervous over the attitude of Constantinople towards the new *régime*, and it has affected to find in the references in the Press to the letter confirmation of its fears of a plot against the Republic. A "Tribunal of Independence" has been sent to Constantinople as a kind of political inquisition, the first act of which has been to arrest the editors of the newspapers which published the Aga Khan's letter or referred to it. Other arrests which are supposed to bear upon the alleged Khalifate agitation are those of an aide-de-camp of the Khalif and of the leader of the Turkish Bar. If the semi-official Press reflects the views of the Government, the Angora authorities are convinced that they have to deal with a British intrigue against Turkey. The idea is, of course, preposterous, as a moment's consideration would show. If Great Britain desired to see Turkey weakened and a prey to internal disorder, the shortest way to that end would be to encourage the Angora Government to interfere still more with the Khalifate, until public opinion in Turkey, as well as throughout the Moslem world, was thoroughly outraged. The Aga Khan's letter may seem to the National Assembly to constitute gratuitous interference with the delegates' own prerogatives, but it shows genuine interest for the welfare of Turkey. If it had been inspired by the British Government, we can hardly suppose that such a phrase as "When the Khalifate was in peril from outside attacks" would have been allowed to stand, whereas the expression is entirely in keeping with the exploded Khalifate agitation in India, and was calculated to commend the signatories to the Turks.

The Tribunal of Independence.

In the face of the palpable anxiety of the Turkish Government, it is to be hoped that the British Government will lose no time in trying to reassure the Angora authorities. Officially, the incident may not be brought to its notice; but a

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slavish adherence to diplomatic custom in matters of this kind can serve no useful purpose. It is not to be wondered at that Mustapha Kemal Pasha and his advisers are nervous over their new Republic; but that is no reason why they should be allowed to bolster it up by working on any ill will there may be in Turkey towards Great Britain. Diplomatic assurances are not always received at their face value; but in the present instance it should be possible to convince the Turkish Government that Great Britain has no concern whatsoever with the Khalifate question. Ismet Pasha, indeed, might be asked to explain why Turkey thinks that she should have any concern with it, for we can hardly suppose that he would solemnly enunciate the unmitigated rubbish with which Angora's press organs seek to raise feeling against Great Britain in this matter. After such action has been taken by the British Government it should be possible for the Tribunal of Independence to declare its labours in Constantinople at an end, without exasperating still further public feeling against the unconstitutional methods of Angora. If Mustapha Kemal Pasha wishes to avoid antagonising Islam, he will be well advised to take counsel with the leaders of Moslem opinion in regard to the future of the Khalifate.

Politics in Greece.

Political feeling in Athens has again sought relief in bloodshed. After a successful Republican mass meeting, at which, regardless of the fact that there is no open space in the capital capable of containing such a crowd, a hundred thousand people were alleged to be present, the anti-Venizelist-Monarchists had to follow suit and obtained the same newspaper-score. On the return of the demonstrators from the Temple of Olympian Zeus to the centre of the town the inevitable collision occurred, and revolver shots and a fusillade by soldiers followed, with nearly forty casualties, including eight killed. An inquiry has been instituted into the circumstances of this incident, but it is not stated that the Government intends to put itself on trial for allowing monster demonstrations while political feeling is running so high, and anyone may go about armed. Within a week of these disturbances the general election has been held. Owing to the abstention of the anti-Venizelists, the issue lay between the Venizelists and the Republicans, and the first returns point, as was to be expected, to a substantial victory for the Venizelists. The latter have refused to take M. Venizelos's "No" for an answer, and will once more appeal to him to return to Greece in order to assume office. It is possible that a good many Greeks who have been anti-Venizelist in the past so far despair of things righting themselves in Greece as to be willing to see M. Venizelos try his hand again. Whether even this state of affairs will persuade the latter to reconsider his decision will be known later. In the meantime, interest attaches to the action of the Revolutionary Committee, which has taken the step of requiring King George II. to leave Greece while the question of the future status of the country is being settled.

Yugoslavia's Foreign Policy.

There is a praiseworthy directness of speech in all M. Nintchitch's pronouncements upon foreign affairs, and other Governments cannot complain that they are left in the dark as to Yugoslav policy. The desire to make the worse appear the better cause, which so often obscures the utterances of statesmen and diplomatists, plays no part in Belgrade. The Serbs, at least, in the Triune Kingdom are a militarist people, and their Government is at no pains to disguise the fact. Thus in a recent speech by the Yugoslav Foreign Minister Greece was reminded that it was important that law and order should be quickly restored; and Bulgaria was told that, notwithstanding the many conventions signed, Yugoslavia would not believe in the sincerity of her Government or in the possibility of establishing friendly relations as long as *komitaji* bands entered Serbian territory from Bulgaria. Relations between Hungary and Yugoslavia, M. Nintchitch had to admit, had improved, and the Little Entente would not oppose the Hungarian Loan, provided that it was not to be used against the interests of its members. In regard to the Anglo-French disagreement on Reparations, the Yugoslav Government was inclined to side with France, but he explained the absence of any reference to Great Britain in a previous speech on foreign affairs as due solely to the fact that no question was pending between this country and Yugoslavia. Even before this statement it was recognised that the present Government in Belgrade had definitely marked out Yugoslavia's course in the political heavens as a French satellite. The decision has been ratified by the approval now given by the French Chamber and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Senate to a loan of three hundred million francs to Yugoslavia. There is some justification for the Foreign Minister's contention that the economic, political, and diplomatic influence of Yugoslavia is increasing yearly, and we look forward to the day when, under his own guidance—for M. Nintchitch has already won a foremost place among Yugoslav politicians—the country will be able to say the same of the esteem and good will that it commands among the nations of Europe.

Bulgaria's Point of View.

If Yugoslavia provides an object-lesson of the *fortiter in re*, we may turn to Bulgaria for an example of the *suaviter in modo* as far as foreign relations are concerned. The Bulgarians have nothing to rely upon save honesty and good behaviour for their rehabilitation in the eyes of Europe, but much of the sting of their period of probation will be removed if they emerge from the ordeal self-reliant and freed from the pernicious Balkan habit of "hanging-on" to a Great Power. The present position from Bulgaria's point of view was given by King Boris in his speech at the opening of the Sobranye on December 9. The international relations of Bulgaria, His Majesty said, are becoming consolidated. Her prestige is increasing on account of her loyal attitude towards the Great Powers and her neighbours. Bulgaria's foreign policy tends principally towards the conscientious observation of the peace treaties and the establishment of good relations with her neighbours, in order that she may become a European factor for law and order. The sincere aspirations of Bulgaria will be duly appreciated abroad, and His Majesty expressed the hope that she might be treated like a country which had not only obligations but also rights. If the King's Speech was silent on the subject of *komitajis*, the omission may have been due to the fact that M. Nintchitch's remarks had not been received at Sofia or to a desire to avoid a controversial point. The Bulgarian Government does not acknowledge the measure of responsibility with which it is invested by Yugoslavia, and has urged that the whole question should be submitted to an impartial investigation. The proposal is rejected by Belgrade, and Europe is thus left to form its own opinion as to which of the two Governments is right in its main contention.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Tuesday Morning.

After the Battle

A battlefield is a dreary thing to look upon, especially when the hoarse cries of the victors can still be heard. Mr. Baldwin must be full of regrets, but he shows that he still has stuff in him by remaining at his office, and in determining to meet his defeat with sword in hand, so to speak. He was known personally to wish to resign, but, so it is said, it was represented to him that if he went the intriguers, and especially the intriguers of his own party, would immediately start their nefarious work. And, of course, merely for having saved us from another Coalition, we ought to be thankful to the Premier.

But these are cold, cheerless, or anxious days for the politically-minded. There is nothing to do now but to wait for the reopening of Parliament and the defeat of the Conservatives. Meanwhile, therefore, public attention is being diverted from politics.

A Labour Government?

The "dope" that is being circulated by the Press now is to the effect that early in January the Labour Party will move an amendment, which will gain the support of the Liberals, and so defeat the Government. Whether this will actually happen it is impossible to say—a good many prophecies in recent days have been rudely falsified—but certainly preparations are being made to this effect.

The Labour Party, however, will find difficult the job of taking over the Government reins. There are, it is true, many of their sounder intellects who would welcome the chance of immediately assuming office, but there is also the more fanatical element, which disapproves entirely the idea of dependence upon the Liberals, and would rather postpone becoming the Government until Labour has an absolute majority. An adjustment between these two views Mr. Ramsay MacDonald is now attempting to make.

If Labour does form the Government there is in the circumstances very little to fear: it could not make, and probably would not try to make, any fundamental changes.

Labour as a National Party.

The prospect of a Labour Government is not widely viewed with any serious misgiving, but it is amusing to see the Party now betaking to itself the national, pro-British attitude. It has recently officially adopted what it supposes to be the popular standpoint in regard to the payment of debts from our Allies to us, and from us to America; and, more surprising still, it has come boldly out in favour of the Government's retaining its shares in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Such things, of course, deceive nobody, for, much more than with any other Government, the Labour Government will be judged on its actions, and not on its declarations. But, if it is to gain the confidence of the people, it simply must live down the reputation which during the War some of its members made for it. Whether that is possible or not I will not say.

Foreign Policy.

It is all part of our bewildering time that the Labour Party has at the moment no one really capable of assuming the post of Foreign Minister, except Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who presumably will also be Prime Minister. What actual difference his ascension will make to Great Britain it is at present hard to see. He will, one supposes, be unsympathetic to Italy, will recognise Russia, and so on, but none of these things should affect us so vitally as to make us apprehensive of the forthcoming ordeal.

The dominance of Labour is an experiment which we have forced ourselves to indulge in, and we must look upon it good-naturedly. One has one's doubts, one has one's hopes, but one need have no fears. There is not the slightest danger of Communist legislation, as some people appear to think; for there are no stronger opponents of fanatical Socialists than the present moderately-minded Labour men who are now keen to assume office. In the chancelleries of Europe, therefore, there will be no fluttering of dovecotes; and a mild indulgence in the brotherhood of man, international solidarity, and the rest of it, will hurt no one here, and will but amuse the harder-headed foreign diplomats.

The Liberal Situation.

An entertaining variety of views is held upon the real position of the Liberal Party: matters will perhaps be a little clearer after Mr. Asquith's meeting to-day at the National Liberal Club. Some people aver that fundamentally the Liberal position is the strongest of any, on the ground that, at a word from Mr. Asquith, any Government can be made or unmade. But against this are the facts that whatever Labour does will go to the credit of Labour, not to their supporters, the Liberals, and if the Liberals do turn Labour out the spoils will go to the Conservatives, not to themselves.

As things are now Liberalism does not appear to have much of a future, for almost inevitably some of its followers will drift into the Conservative or the Labour camps. A few may fight on as defenders of Free Trade, but if, as is quite possible, Labour introduces certain Protective measures, they will be easily outnumbered. The chief hope of the Liberals seems to lie in the failure of Labour.

Defeated University Candidates.

The most notable thing about the University elections was that Professor Gilbert Murray, of Oxford, and Mr. H. G. Wells, of London, were both defeated. As strong as any contributory cause in their defeat may have been the impression, not quite fairly formed, perhaps, that their attitude during the War was unsound; but in any case their erasion should be the nation's gain.

It is high time that Mr. Wells gave us another "Mr. Polly," and Professor Gilbert Murray some

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more translations from the classics. The intrusion of these two men into politics is a waste of talent, which could be better indulged in more traditional directions. But, while the League of Nations lasts, for Mr. Wells to attack it and Gilbert Murray to support it, there does not appear to be a great chance of our having matters as we should wish.

The Douglas-Churchill Case.

The other day Lord Alfred Douglas was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for criminally libelling Mr. Winston Churchill, and one has heard no comments in criticism of that judgment. Without any doubt at all, ugly influences are sometimes at work in political affairs, and ever since the Marconi case people have been ready in increasing numbers to believe that politicians' actions are not always actuated by the highest motives. There is now, in fact, a public with ears open for scandal.

But in this particular case there was no sound evidence at all to justify Lord Alfred's attack on the integrity of Mr. Churchill, who, indeed, is in no wise injured by this action. The defendant was on the wrong horse altogether, and no balanced person can regret the fall for which he was riding.

Lloyd's.

It is not often that so large a part of London changes under our eyes as is involved in the removal from the Royal Exchange of Lloyd's. Lloyd's had come to be regarded as an integral part of the Royal Exchange, but the development of insurance business, it appears, has been so enormous that new premises had to be acquired. These have been found in Leadenhall Street, which will now become the centre both of the shipping and the insurance worlds. Property in this neighbourhood is, I understand, already soaring to very high prices.

It may well be that this is the beginning of a change in the location in the city's heart, and that in another hundred years' time people may have to leave the business world to take a trip to the Mansion House.

The University Rugby Match.

Oxford had the fright of its life last Tuesday at Twickenham, for Cambridge rose to the occasion in dazzling style. It was a most thrilling struggle, with Cambridge almost over in the first minute and a try scored by the losers in the last minute. Everybody has, of course, his own explanation of Oxford's victory in face of the fact that Cambridge got the ball out of the scrummage six times out of eight. I personally think it was the play of Franklin at back in the second half which saved them. They deserved to win because of the extreme skill and determination of their threes and of the wayward but fearsome genius of Lawton; but that is not the same thing as saying that Cambridge deserved to lose.

It was, I should imagine, one of the most stirring contests ever seen at Twickenham or on any other ground; certainly deep feelings were pent up in the breasts of some on the ground by the manner of their venting later on in the evening.

National Decay.

Dean Inge has been at it again. At a lecture which he gave the other day upon "National Decay and Regeneration," he stated that in every generation the cream of all classes was skimmed off, raised to a better social position, and there sterilised. It was the "sub-man" who was breeding fastest. Quite evidently he, in common with hundreds of other hopeless people, is weighed dismally down by this question of population. The birth control advocates are, it is said, increasing, and Dean Inge is now at one with his time.

Undoubtedly we are living in a tremendous period, in which the problem of existence will perhaps not be solved by tinkering expedients. But if the matter really were so pressing, would not the brighter intellects be urging some vaster scheme than emigration and birth control? Social revolutions need not necessarily be carried out as they were in Russia, and we are lost indeed if we believe that man can so outgrow the world as to forbid the possibility of the creation of a system which shall support our larger people.

ALTER EGO.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

The King and Queen of Roumania will pay a visit to London in May next.

Four cases of plague, one of which was fatal, were reported in Constantinople during the week ending Dec. 8.

M. Paraskevopulo, former Consul-General of Greece in Cairo, has been appointed Counsellor to the Greek Legation in Cairo.

King Hussein is leaving Mecca shortly to make a tour of inspection lasting some forty days of the Hejaz coastal region.

The Burmese police estimates, which were rejected by the Legislative Council by twenty-nine votes to twenty-one, have been certified by the Governor.

H. E. Hassan Mazloum Pasha, the newly appointed Postmaster-General, arrived in Alexandria at the end of last month and assumed his official duties.

Mr. David Lyon, a native of Hawick, who took part in the Indian Mutiny and at the taking of Taku Forts, died in Guernsey on December 13, at the age of eighty-five.

Ahmed Pasha Ziwar and Seifullah Pasha Yusry, the newly appointed Egyptian Ministers to Rome and Washington respectively, left Egypt last Friday to take up their duties.

Professor Kouleff has been elected President of the Bulgarian Sobranje, and M. Naidenoff and Dr. Vasoff, a Radical and a Nationalist respectively, have been elected Vice-Presidents.

The Albanian Frontier Commission, having concluded its labours in Southern Epirus, has postponed its activities in Northern Epirus until April, in view of the heavy snows of the winter season.

A Washington message to the *Chicago Tribune* states that President Coolidge has sent to the Senate for confirmation of the name of Mr. Henry Lane Wilson for United States Ambassador to Turkey.

Sir Walter Schwabe, K.C., who was appointed Chief Justice of Madras at the end of 1921, has resigned his appointment for private reasons, and returns to practise at the Bar immediately after the New Year.

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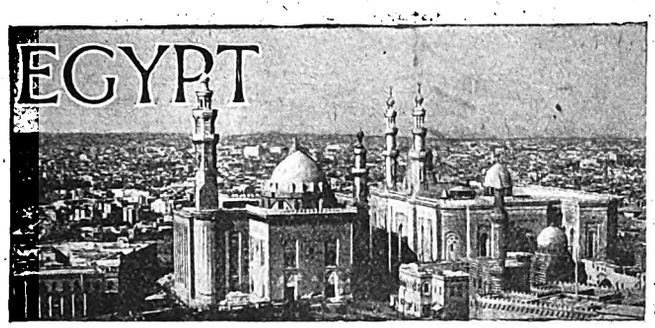
The Near and Middle East.*

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 9.

Cotton.

With continuously soaring prices and an equally rapidly rising spirit of optimism, our cotton speculators have been having a wonderful time during the past few weeks. Every new advance served merely to increase the certainty of the gamblers that cotton would go higher yet. Fifty dollars, sixty, even seventy-five, were spoken of as likely levels before the turn of the tide would come. All sorts of people who know nothing about cotton and normally have no connection whatever with the market have been buying in the hope of quickly selling out again at a handsome profit. Some of them have doubtless realised their hopes, but it is to be feared that the majority of the amateur cotton dealers are now regretting their anxiety to embark on a speculation regarding which they had much hope but little knowledge. The Alexandria market began to be uneasy early in the week, responding to a big fall in values on the Liverpool exchange, but the real slump did not set in until Thursday, when the Bourse opened with a rush of selling which sent the January contract quotations headlong downwards, the fall being nearly three dollars in as many hours. The market recovered somewhat before the close of the morning, and there is now again an upward tendency, but the sudden panic has had the effect of discouraging talk of a sixty dollar level in the near future.

Meanwhile the Ministry of Agriculture's estimate of this season's crop has been published, putting the anticipated total at 5,844,000 kantars, which gives an average yield over the whole country of 3.68 kantars per feddan. This figure is slightly higher than the average for the preceding five years, which stood at 3.44 kantars per feddan, but it is probable that the increase is largely due to the fact that the proportion of Ashmouni cotton to Sakellarides was higher than it has been for some years. Since the difference in price between the two grades has gradually contracted to a very small margin, growers have been planting more and more Ashmouni in preference to Sakellarides, the much higher yield of the former more than compensating for the now comparatively slightly lower market value. This year's yield figures, though a slight improvement on their immediate predecessors, are yet indicative of the serious decline in productivity of Egypt's soil, for in 1895 the average yield was 5.47 kantars per feddan, which, in 1914, had fallen to 4.27 kantars, and is now down to 3.68 kantars. Investigation into the causes of this decrease is being carried on continuously, but up to the present it has not been possible to fix upon any circumstance as definitely responsible. Should the dwindling continue in the same ratio during the next twenty years, as has been experienced in the same period just expired, Egypt's staple industry will be in a bad way indeed.

Prohibition in Egypt.

For some time past there has been an active propaganda for Prohibition in Egypt. The movement derives its main strength from the ulema and sheikhs, whose war upon alcohol is, of course, waged on religious grounds. The enforcement of Prohibition in Turkey gave considerable impetus to the movement here, and a few months ago the Grand Mufti and the Rector of Al Azhar University submitted to King Fuad a memorandum drawing attention to the evils of the drink traffic and to the progress of the temperance movement in Egypt. Now local Prohibitionists are being encouraged in the faith by the presence in their midst of Mr. "Pussyfoot" Johnson, who has come on here from South Africa, at the conclusion of a tour which he has undertaken in order to get information for the World League Against Alcoholism. Mr. Johnson has had a very good reception among local temperance workers, and has been very busy meeting all manner of people. Prince Mohammed Aly, brother of the ex-Khedive, has taken a good deal of interest in Mr. Johnson's visit, and arranged a meeting yesterday afternoon at which "Pussyfoot" disclaimed any wish to dictate to Egyptians what they should do in their own country, but painted a very glowing picture of the results of Prohibition in America. This morning Mr. Johnson was presented by the American Minister to King Fuad, and to-morrow he sails from Port Said for England and the United States.

More Retirements.

Two more British officials of prominence have left the Egyptian Government's service during the past week. These are Major C. B. Thomson, who has been at the head of the Epidemics Section of the Ministry of Public Health during the past ten years, and Mr. W. H. Crosthwaite, Controller of the Government Printing and Stationery Office. The general public hears little of the Epidemics Section, a fact which proves the efficiency of its work. Last spring there was an outbreak, which might have been serious, of plague, which was

*Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.

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very quickly got under control, the whole of the work being in the hands of Egyptian doctors and officials, of whose ability, as shown at that time, Major Thomson expressed a very high opinion. The Egyptian Government was anxious to retain Major Thomson on contract, and he would have been glad to have stayed had it not been that his private affairs demand his presence at home for the next twelve months or so. It is to be hoped that Major Thomson will eventually be able to return to the work which he is leaving here, for a leavening of such officials as he will be invaluable to the Egyptian administration during the next few years.

British Club's Prosperity.

It is a somewhat surprising fact that, despite the constant stream of departing British officials, the Turf Club is flourishing as never before. The financial position is so satisfactory that the committee felt justified in recommending to the general meeting the other day a reduction of the annual subscription from £E10 to £E7½, which proposal was approved. It is generally recognised that the club will have to face the resignation of at least two hundred of its members who are Government officials during the next three or four years, but, this notwithstanding, prospects are considered to be bright. Certainly the committee's confidence is being justified at the present time, for new members are coming in fast, and there are at the present time ten up for election. Where they all come from is rather a mystery, for there has been no apparent increase in the number of "clubbable" non-official Englishmen in Cairo. The solution of the problem would appear to be that many men who have lived in Cairo for years without joining the club have now decided to do so. Perhaps changed conditions in Egypt, and the realisation that the club will not be in the future, whatever it may have been in the past, an institution mainly for the benefit of Anglo-Egyptian officials, is encouraging new members to join. This is certainly all to the good, for, although the Turf Club is neither by its rules nor in practice a purely British institution, it still is the only place in Cairo where it is possible to get some idea of what the British residents as a whole are saying and thinking. In the future, even more than in the past, it will be the social centre for the masculine portion of the British community.

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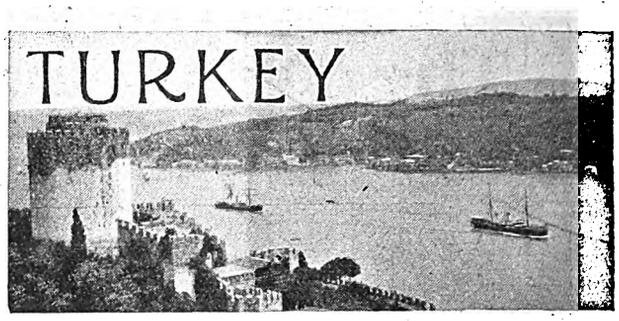

Constantinople, December 11.

Critical Events.

In neither internal nor in foreign affairs have matters in Turkey been proceeding smoothly, and in one or two things a crisis has been reached. First, there is the question of the Patriarchate. The Treaty of Lausanne enacts that the Patriarchate shall remain at Constantinople as a purely religious institution. The late Patriarch, Meletios, retired as not being acceptable to the Turkish Government on political grounds; his definite renunciation was exacted from him and the Synod, and in the circumstances the Government were perfectly justified. But recent events in connection with Papa Eftimi cannot so easily be glossed over. After the election of the Archbishop of Chalcedon as Patriarch, the egregious Eftimi collected a body of armed Turkish bravos, irrupted into the Patriarchate, beat up all and sundry, and finally drove out all the archbishops with personal violence, from which their status, if not their age, should have protected them. Protests to the police and to the Governor of the city availed them nothing. Haidar Bey, the Governor, told the *Aksham* that "the Government cannot interfere in the internal differences dividing the Church, providing there is no breach of the peace Up till now there has not been any reason to intervene."

It appears that somebody in authority has since this event returned to sanity, realised that matters had gone too far, and ordered the expulsion of the bravos and the reinstallation of the Patriarchate in its rightful domains.

But even more important than the affairs of the Patriarchate is the announcement made yesterday morning that the proprietors and editors of the three best and most outspoken Constantinople papers—Hussein Djahid Bey, of the *Tanin;* Velid Bey Ebouzzia, of the *Tevhid-i-Evkiar;* and Ahmed Djevdet Bey, of the *Ikdam*—have been summarily arrested and their papers suppressed for having published an open letter to General Ismet Pasha by the Aga Khan, in which he counselled prudence and calm reflection, for the sake of Turkey's prestige with the Moslem world, before any irrevocable hostile action was taken by the Turkish Government against the Khalifate. The charge against the accused is that of high treason against the Turkish State. It is a matter of common knowledge that these distinguished publicists—and they are almost the only journalists in present-day Turkey who are worthy of this title—have long been the spokesmen of a very considerable body of their compatriots and co-religionists in Press criticism of the Government and the Administration, which has been consistent, reasonable and broad-minded, and couched in language which any stout Opposition journal at home would have thought milk-and-watery. The Press is, however, free and unrestricted by censorship, for I seem to remember a song-and-dance in the Government journals a few short weeks ago on the immense superiority of the enlightened Turkish Press administration over similar institutions in the mediæval States of Western Europe. The mere publication of such a

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polite letter as that of the Aga Khan cannot, therefore, be the motive of this serious charge. The real reason of this drastic action is the supposed existence of a plot. The G.N.A. has just appointed a Tribunal of Independence to sit in Constantinople to try all cases of high treason against the State which have as their object the execution of a *coup d'état* destined to overthrow the existing form of government. One would have thought that the much-advertised raising of the state of siege a few weeks ago would have automatically abolished the legal status of such abnormal institutions as Tribunals of Independence, but here the expected never happens. If the tribunal holds its sittings in public some spicy revelations may be expected very soon. But most people think that the Tribunal of Independence has acquired that prominent characteristic of its stepmother, the Cheka, namely, of hiding its light under a bushel. Meanwhile one can only hope that the intensely patriotic feelings of the loyal Republicans of Constantinople will not be harried by these discoveries of plots to such an extent that they will commit such passionate illegalities as did the populace of Ismid when Ali Kemal Bey was lynched under the eyes of the "impotent" authorities.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The columns of THE NEAR EAST *are always open for the discussion of subjects of general interest to its readers. The publication of such letters must not be taken, however, as indicating that the views expressed by the writers are those of* THE NEAR EAST.

ANGORA AND THE KHALIFATE.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have now received the Aga Khan's authorisation to send you a copy of our letter to Ismet Pasha. As he is leaving immediately for India, he also desires that it should be accompanied with a *communiqué* denying emphatically and indignantly any wish on our part to interfere in the politics of Turkey, or to have any association with any of her parties or factions.

We recognise the signal services Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha has rendered to his country. But the uncertainty which surrounds the position of the Khalif as the religious head of the Sunni populations was likely to cause the disintegration of Islam, and we thought we might bring the matter to the notice of the Turkish Assembly and urge that the Khalif's dignity might be placed on an assured position, so as to maintain his prestige and command the confidence and esteem of the Sunni world. We had not the slightest desire to hamper in any way the established Government of Turkey. Such counsel, coming from two consistent friends of Turkey, who had proved their sympathy with Turkish aspirations during a long period of trial and struggle, should not have been so misconstrued. Personally, I greatly resent the imputations.—I am, etc.,

AMEER ALI.

18, Sloane Street, S.W.1, December 13.

18, Sloane Street, S.W.1,
November 24, 1923.

To his Excellency Ghazi Ismet Pasha, Prime Minister of Turkey.

Your Excellency,

1. As consistent friends of new Turkey and in full sympathy with her aspirations as an independent member in the comity of the free nations of the world, we desire, with your permission, to invite the attention of the Grand National Assembly to the very disturbing effects the present uncertain position of the Khalif-Imâm is exercising among the vast populations who belong to the Sunni communion. We have noticed with the greatest regret that Islam, as a great moral and cohesive force, is losing among large sections of the Sunni population, owing to the diminution in the Khalif's dignity and prestige, its weight and influence. For obvious reasons we do not wish to particularise the facts, but its absolute accuracy cannot be gainsaid.

2. In the Sunni communion, we need not point out, the spiritual headship forms the link which binds the followers of Islam as a vast congregation. When the Khalifate was in peril from outside attacks, Mussulman feeling all over the world was violently agitated, and the Muslims of India gave their sympathy and support to the Turkish nation in the belief that in fighting for their independence they were fighting also for the preservation intact of the institution which symbolised Muslim solidarity. Throughout those critical times we strenuously pleaded for the Turkish cause. And a British Muslim organisation has, ever since the Turco-Italian War in Tripoli and Cyrenaica, devoted its energies in endeavouring to alleviate the untold suffering and distress among the Turkish people. Our observations and suggestions, therefore, we trust, will receive a courteous hearing from your Excellency's Government regarding a question in which we, in common with all Muslims, take the deepest interest.

3. It must not be supposed for a moment from our remarks that we wish to suggest that the powers of the people's representatives should be in any degree curtailed. What we respectfully urge is that the religious headship of the Sunni world should be maintained intact in accordance with the Shariyyèt. In our opinion, any diminution in the prestige of the Khalif or the elimination of the Khalifate as a religious factor from the Turkish body politic would mean the disintegration of Islam and its practical disappearance as a moral force in the world—a contingency which, we are sure, neither the Grand National Assembly nor his Excellency the President Ghazi Mustapha Kemal Pasha can view with equanimity.

4. In our opinion the Khalif-Imâm symbolises the unity of the Sunni communion: and the fact that he is a member of the Turkish people and is a descendant of the founder of the Turkish nation gives to Turkey a position pre-eminent among Islamic nations.

5. For fourteen centuries it has been the cardinal principle of the *Ahl-i-Sunnat*, and on this, we believe, is the *Ijmâa-i-Ummat*, that the Khalif, the Vice-gerent of the Prophet, is the Imâm of the Sunni congregations, and that between him and the general body of worshippers there is a nexus which knits together the *Ahl-i-Sunnat*. This mystical element cannot be eradicated from the Muslim mind without creating discord in the world of Islam.

6. We need not remind your Excellency that even when the Khalif-Imâm lost his temporal power the great Kings and Chieftains sought and obtained from him investiture in order to validate their title to rule and to lead at prayers, the usual concomitant of secular authority. If Islam is to maintain its place in the world as a great moral force, the Khalif's position and dignity should not, in any event, be less than that of the Pontiff of the Church of Rome.

7. For these reasons, among others equally cogent, we, as the true friends of Turkey, respectfully urge upon the Grand National Assembly and its great and far-sighted leaders the imminent neecssity for maintaining the religious and moral solidarity of Islam by placing the Khalif-Imâmate on a basis which could command the confidence and esteem of the Muslim nations, and thus impart to the Turkish State unique strength and dignity.

We are, your Excellency, your obedient servants,

AGA KHAN.
AMEER ALI.

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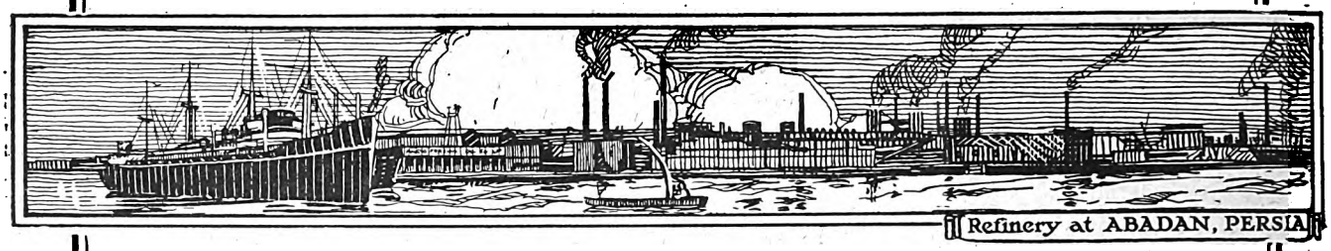

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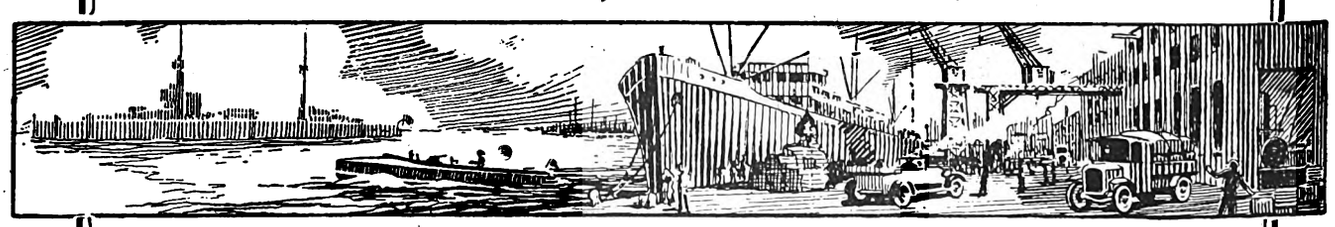

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BRITAIN AND ABYSSINIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—I have read with interest your remarks under the above heading in your issue of October 25, and was somewhat surprised to trace therein an apparent criticism of British policy in Abyssinia and of our Government's representative at Addis Abeba.

As I have passed a period of three years here, perhaps you would allow me an expression of opinion.

My experience tells me that all negotiations—be they political or commercial—are more difficult to carry through than would be imagined by those unacquainted with the country. The application of forceful methods does not always produce the best results. These are more frequently obtained by measures that compensate fully in judgment and efficiency for what they would appear—to some—to lack in vigour and ostentation.

During my stay in Abyssinia I have seen no indication of a policy opposed to "the striving of a backward people for better things," nor have I found any evidence of a lack of interest or support in matters of British concern.—I am, etc.,

H. WILLIAMSON,
General Manager,
Abyssinian Corporation, Limited.

Addis Abeba, November 27.

"FROM AKBAR TO AURANGZEB."

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—May I say a word on a point of bibliographical detail in Mr. Hallward's review of my book "From Akbar to Aurangzeb"? "Pervanis" is not, as he conjectures, a misprint for "Persianis." John Hay collected into one volume letters from India, Japan, *and Peru;* he has no letters from Persia.—I am, etc.,

W. H. MORELAND.

AN APPEAL FOR ALBANIA.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir—Of all the States which have been formed since the break-up of the Austrian and Turkish Empires, the one which has so far received the least help and has suffered as much as any—for it was overrun by seven armies during the War, and has since been invaded—is Albania.

Other States have been granted large loans and received lavish gifts of food and clothing from various charitable agencies. Save for some relief work done by the American Red Cross and the gifts of a few friends, no help at all has been given to Albania, and she has been left to wrestle single-handed with her problems of construction and reconstruction. Possibly she would have succeeded, in spite of the large number of refugees she has had to feed, had not two successive bad harvests deprived the people of the maize which is the peasants' staple food.

The people of the mountains are starving. Mr. Parr, the British Consul at Durazzo, makes an urgent appeal for funds with which to open a relief station at Scutari for the distribution of maize and other necessaries to save a large population from death by hunger during the winter. A large supply of quinine is also needed to combat malaria. Last winter the resources of the Albanian Government were strained to the uttermost by feeding the victims of the failure of last year's harvest as well as many refugees, and it is unable to cope unaided with the present calamity.

Albania knows that when her fate was in the balance it was largely to the strenuous efforts of the late Colonel Aubrey Herbert and the work of Lord Robert Cecil on the League of Nations that she owed her existence as an independent State. And she turns towards England in her bitter distress. Her appeal is warmly supported by Lord Robert Cecil.

All contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer:—Miss M. E. Durham, 36, Glenloch Road, London, N.W.3, and will be most gratefully received. Cheques should be crossed "Nat. Provincial and Union Bank."

(Signed) E. CARNARVON, E. GROGAN, LAMINGTON, M. KONITZA (Albanian Minister), TREOWEN, M. E. DURHAM (Hon. Sec.), WALTER GUINNESS, M.P.

December 10.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AND TURKEY.

To the Editor of THE NEAR EAST.

Sir,—"A peace has been patched up with the Turkish Empire. No one believes it can endure long. The only question is: How long?"

The author of the above is Mr. Lloyd George, and the words are almost the opening sentence in the preface or foreword of the book "Is It Peace?" Its many readers, both at home and abroad, will thus be deliberately inoculated with a distrust of Turkey. Presumably it is she who is to break her engagements—not England. The fact is that neither M. Venizelos nor Mr. Lloyd George have recovered from the defeat of their Near East policy, but that is no reason why bad intentions should be ascribed to a people who, at least, are distinctly friendly to us.—I am, etc.,

December 7. G. L. H.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Rev. W. W. Cash, D.S.O., O.B.E., who has been appointed Home Secretary of the Church Missionary Society in succession to the Rev. H. St. B. Holland, went to Egypt in 1901 under the Egypt General Mission. He joined the C.M.S. in 1909, and was ordained the following year. As an Army chaplain he saw much war service in the East. At the end of 1916 he joined the H.Q. of the Army operating in Sinai. He was with the Army that moved through Palestine, and after the capture of Jerusalem he preached at the thanksgiving service in St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. From 1918 to 1920 he was assistant principal chaplain. He was five times mentioned in dispatches, and was awarded the D.S.O. and the O.B.E. Since July, 1920, Mr. Cash has acted as secretary of the C.M.S. missions in Palestine, Egypt, and the Northern Sudan, and in that capacity has been recasting the whole of the work in Palestine, which came entirely to a standstill during the War.

King Alexander of Yugoslavia left Paris for Belgrade on December 11.

King Faisal and Sir Henry Dobbs, British High Commissioner in Irak, proceeded from Baghdad on December 10 by special train to the Hindiyeh barrage for the formal opening of the branch line to Kerbela. This branch is expected to carry the great stream of Shiah pilgrims, especially Persians, who visit this Holy City.

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington, who spent his early boyhood days at Herne Bay, last week presented to the parish church of that town the flag which was flown over the Gallipoli Peninsula during the British Army's occupation, 1920-1923, and also at the service held at Suvla Bay before the troops finally left. He also unveiled a brass tablet which has been placed beneath it to the memory of the Gallipoli dead.

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Near East Bookshelf.

MESOPOTAMIA IN 1923.

"BY TIGRIS AND EUPHRATES." By E. S. Stevens. (London: Hurst and Blacket, Ltd. 18s. net.)

The production of a book covering 340 pages involves a degree of labour which very few laymen can realise; but the author's task is not completed when he has indited the happy word "Finis." It remains to select an arresting title, one that runs trippingly on a reader's lips and whets his appetite for the book's contents. Charles Dickens wrote, in answer to a lady who asked how she should christen a work describing Oriental travel, "What such a book wants in its title it wants in itself—an air of novelty derivable from things seen and thought about from some fanciful station." The title chosen for her sketch of modern Irak by the charming writer, whose pen-name is "E. S. Stevens," amply satisfies these requirements. Novelty, fancy, and romance irradiate every page of her book; but it has a hard substratum of fact which is extremely valuable at a crisis when the future of the Mesopotamian delta lies on the lap of the gods. She has spent a portion of every year since 1919 in exploring that land of buried empires. She has lived on intimate terms with all classes of its heterogeneous population, and lost no opportunity of studying their modes of thought. The majority are fanatical Shiahs, whose ingrained conservatism renders them averse from anything savouring of Western progress, they detest other Moslems, and hold no truck with unbelievers. It is infinitely to Miss Stevens's credit that she should have succeeded in piercing the veil which shrouds the Shiah's household. Owing to centuries of Turkish dominion the upper classes are mostly Sunnis, whose long contact with Western civilisation renders them more receptive of new ideas. Many Christian sects have survived the cruel persecutions of preceding régimes, and some of them are far older than the Christendoms of mediæval Europe. Jews have inhabited the cities ever since the great Dispersion of the sixth century B.C.: they live by usury and trade, as in every country where they have gained a footing. Devil-worshippers are found in the hilly region north of Mosul: but their deity has nothing in common with the Satan of "Paradise Lost." Baal and Ishtar are unwittingly adored by professing Moslems; and Sir George Frazer might gain many a wrinkle for the next edition of his "Golden Bough" from Miss Stevens's ample "ritual of magic." She has traversed the delta from Basrah to Mosul, she has visited the Shiah shrines at Kerbela and Nejef, the Mosques of Baghdad, the scanty remains of Babylon, Nineveh, Asshur, and Ur of the Chaldees, and the Christian monasteries which stand in perilous proximity to Kurdistan. The following word-picture, selected almost at random, proves Miss Stevens's capacity for reproducing the atmosphere of an Eastern city. While waiting in native garb for permission to visit a mosque which is tabu for Europeans, she

> sat on a square matting, and watched a man kindle a fire in the courtyard, and kill a fowl to cook thereon; saw a woman hanging out some clothes to dry, and a congregation of five hungry cats begging from a cake-seller who wandered about, peddling his wares. Close by in the hot sunshine, an old man read the Qurán to himself in a sing-song voice, his eyes rarely lifted from the page. Across the yard a number of small boys sat in a Qurán school, their master being invisible. None had books, but they droned away in chorus, their eyes straying in all directions as they recited the Holy Book by rote. Beggars sat and asked alms from those who entered; a Darwesh, whose hair was long and matted and his clothes in rags, squatted with his begging-bowl in somnolent contemplation. Above, the blue dome of the mosque lay like a jewel against the flower-blue sky, and grey pigeons circled and wheeled and settled struttingly on the pavement.

It is generally recognised that European civilisation originated in the deltas of the Nile, the Tigris, and the Euphrates. Their soil, yearly fertilised by a deposit of silt, favoured the growth of population, and the arts which adorn and sweeten life took root in the resulting prosperity. Mesopotamia has been more unlucky than Egypt in experiencing the direct effects of foreign invasion. Twice did Mongol hordes sweep over the land, destroying nearly every vestige of its ancient culture; and the havoc wrought by them was completed by Nadir Shah, who drowned Delhi in blood. Little remains of the Baghdad of Harún al Rashid, and of many older cities it may be said, *etiam periere ruinæ*—their very ruins have disappeared. The vandalism which converted a main granary of the ancient world into a trackless desert is not yet extinct, but it is pleasant to learn that the authorities have at length taken steps to preserve the remains of a mighty past from annihilation.

The future of these much-vexed regions is shrouded in uncertainty. They have reaped immense benefits from the British Occupation, and the mercantile classes know that they have nought to gain but much to lose from a restoration of Turkish sovereignty. The Christian communities in the North would then be at the mercy of Kurdish raiders, and the Shiah shrines on the Arabian frontier would be pillaged by Wahabis. Fatalism renders Moslems proof against the carking care which is sapping the energy of Europeans, but:

> Even the poorest boatmen feels the impermanence and instability of the existing order of things. He has seen the Turk move out with bag and baggage, and now hears people calmly debating whether he is to return. He has seen the British march into Baghdad, and hears talk of their marching out. He has heard *agents provocateurs* urging the people of Iraq in 1920 to chase the British from the country, and has seen these same British—the rebellion crushed—establishing some of their late enemies in positions of authority. He has seen a foreigner—an Arab but not an Iraqi—placed upon the throne. He has heard that King Faisal is British and anti-British. He has heard that the British mean to stay and that they are clamouring to go.

Miss Stevens acknowledges her indebtedness to THE NEAR EAST for permission to use much material which has appeared in its columns. Her book should be closely studied by all who wish to see Irak's ancient glories revive under a wise and sympathetic Government.

F. H. S.

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BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Benjamin and Co." By C. S. Abraham. (London: Messrs. Drane. 6s. net.)

"Luxor and its Temples." By A. M. Blackman, D.Litt. Illustrated by Major Benton Fletcher. (London: Messrs. A. and C. Black, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"The Fall of Nineveh." By C. J. Gadd. (London: Humphrey Milford. 1s. net.)

"Turkey, the Great Powers and the Baghdad Railway": A Study in Imperialism. By Edward Mead Earle, Ph.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Mock Majesty." By E. W. Savi. (London: G. P. Putnams Sons. 7s. 6d net.)

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 20 (New Style).
December 7 (Old Style).
Gumada I. 11, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tibet 12, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lady Ludlow has left the Ritz Hotel, Paris, for Egypt.

Sir Robert and Lady Gardiner arrived at Mentone last week.

Prince Christopher of Greece has arrived at Claridge's from Paris.

Sir Ian and Lady Malcolm will leave London next month for Egypt.

The Hon. Mrs. Ronald Greville left London last Thursday for Southern India.

M. Gregoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Bucharest.

Lord and Lady Inchcape left Bath last Monday for Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae, where they will spend Christmas.

Sybil Viscountess Rhondda sailed from London last Friday in the Plassy for Egypt, and will be abroad until April.

Sir Stephen and Lady Demetriadi left London last week for St. Moritz, and will be away until the middle of January.

M. Athos Romanos, Greek Minister in Paris, who arrived in London on December 12, left again for Paris on December 16.

Princess Maud and Lord Carnegie, after spending the first part of their honeymoon in Sicily, arrived in Tunis on December 5.

The Hon. Lionel Holland is leaving this week on a visit to Burma and India, and will not be back in England until early in April.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. F. K. McClean sailed last Friday for Algeria, Egypt, and the Sudan, where they will spend the winter.

Lieut.-Colonel R. A. Needham, C.I.E., D.S.O., I.M.S., expects to leave London on December 28 in the P. and O.s Delta for Bombay.

Signor Corsi, representative of the Reparation Commission at Sofia, has been appointed to succeed Signor d'Amelio as Italian assistant delegate to the Commission.

M. Milan Stevanovitch, Secretary to the Legation of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, left London on December 16 for Belgrade, and will be absent about a month.

Mr. L. M. Robinson, British Consul at Munich, left Germany last Thursday for Galatz, Roumania, where, in addition to his duties as Consul, he will be a member of the Danube Commission.

During the absence in England on leave of Sir John Maffey, Mr. Bolton is officiating for him as Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, India. Sir John Maffey expects to stay in this country until early in March.

M. Nicolas Mishu, Secretary at the Roumanian Legation, acted as Chargé d'Affaires during the recent absence of the Minister in Paris. Monsieur Titulescu returned to London on December 17.

Sir Charles Biron has booked his passage on the P. and O. Delta, intending to join the boat at Marseilles on January 4 for Port Said. Colonel H. J. K. Bamfield, D.S.O., and Sir Edwin L. Lutyens, R.A., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., will travel by the same boat from Marseilles to Bombay.

Travellers by the P. and O. Naldera, expecting to join the boat at Marseilles for Port Said on January 11, will include Lady Annie Brocklehurst, Sir Frederick and Lady Bowater, H.H. Prince Jean de Caraman Chimay and Princess Chimay, Lady Violet Henderson, and Miss Henderson.

Lieut.-Commander G. A. C. Haggard, R.N., and Mrs. Haggard, and Colonel D. I. Shuttleworth have booked their passages on the P. and O. Naldera for Bombay, intending to join the boat at Marseilles on January 11.

The King has given authority for the wearing of the following decorations of the Order of the Nile conferred by the King of Egypt in recognition of valuable services:—

Insignia of the Third Class.—Mr. R. W. Brigstocke, Chief Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.

Insignia of the Fourth Class.—Mr. T. E. Bayne-Jardine, Inspector, Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1923.

INDIA FROM BELOW.

We have noticed more than once in these columns the rapid evolution of the report on Indian affairs which is submitted annually to Parliament, and the current issue of which now lies before us. In the old days the reports were rather sorry productions, usually accurate in point of fact, but out of date, jejune, and unreadable. In the new conditions the standard of accuracy is, so far as we can judge, preserved, but in all other respects the change is complete, and we should describe the report for 1922-23 as an excellent sample of the super-journalism demanded by the present generation, up-to-date, interesting, and, therefore, likely to be of real importance in moulding opinion in this country. For this very reason we are bound to ask whether it is not merely accurate in detail but also true in the wider sense, whether it gives a just idea of the relative importance of different facts, whether it distinguishes the permanent from the evanescent, whether, in a word, it is a sound guide for the men who have to shape the destiny of India with but little in the way of first-hand knowledge of the conditions in which they have to act. To this question our answer must be that the presentation is just sufficiently incomplete to be somewhat dangerous in practice. The writer views the life of India mainly from above, the momentary activities of politicians and administrators bulk too large, the thoughts and feelings of the masses do not stand out clearly, and some corrective is necessary for the reader who desires to see India steadily and whole. Let us, then, look for a moment at the same facts from below. We stand among hundreds of millions of peasants, workmen, and artisans who know that things are somehow changed, but are ignorant of the facts, and vaguely suspicious of the motives at work. They know that politicians are now active in the rarified medium hitherto sacred to their gods and their governments, the source of too rare boons and too frequent calamities: they scarcely realise that the politicians can influence the life below; they do not yet know that by and by they will have to keep the politicians in order. From this standpoint it is obvious that Parliament needs to know most of all the working of the new leaven among the masses. Political progress must be measured less by the growth of Parliamentary aptitudes in the capitals than by the spread of new ideas in the villages. The structure of the new legislatures is certainly imposing, but that word bears two meanings, and if the structure has inadequate foundations, it may be not merely imposing but dangerous to the inhabitants.

From the report we glean one important fact, that just two per cent. of the population is enfranchised, and from other sources we learn that the voters consist mainly of the upper classes as the term is understood in India. That is the whole foundation, and in our eyes it is inadequate, not only because the proportion is so minute, but because the voters are not representative of the mass. To state the position in concrete form, the number of brahmans in the country is roughly equal to the numbers of the principal castes who will handle hides, and are consequently polluted from their birth. By Hindu theory, the social worth of one brahman far exceeds that of all the tanners in the world. The decision of Parliament means that eventually brahman and tanner shall be equal at the polls, leaving differences in social position, intellect, and character, to assert themselves by way of leadership. We ask, therefore, what progress is being made towards bringing within the Constitution the remaining ninety-eight per cent. of the population, the tanners and their like, who as yet can express their views only by strikes or violence, and here the report fails us, chiefly, we imagine, because practically nothing is being done. The administration is too fully occupied in handling the problems of the moment, while, as time goes on, it becomes more and more apparent that Indian politicians in the mass do not want to increase the numbers of their potential masters, and if the elaborate structure is to be saved, Parliament itself must see to the foundations. We are, of course, aware that the brahman politicians of the North claim to have the masses behind them. The claim may be well founded, but we recall the fact that it was not so in the South, where the old-established brahman "leadership" was swept away in the very first election; its truth in the North can be tested only by bringing the lower classes to the polls, and that is just what the politicians have hitherto failed to demand.

At the present moment these considerations are important. Nearly all Indian politicians are agreed in asking that the reforms should be speeded up, in other words, that they should forthwith be given largely increased powers, and there is a widespread impression, fortified by some incidental remarks in the report before us, that Lord Reading's Government is by no means out of sympathy with the proposal. We agree that there may be a good case for acceleration, and we do not suppose that Parliament would insist pedantically on the precise time-schedule embodied in the present law, but we are profoundly impressed by the danger that the acceleration may be one-sided, because there is an eager demand for more power, but there is no demand for more voters. In our judgment a wide extension of the franchise should be a necessary preliminary to the grant of any further powers. The existing franchise rests, of course, on no scientific principle. In considering the question, the Joint-Committee was guided largely by the risk of overwhelming the Administration, which at the time had no experience of the conduct of elections, and it gave votes as widely as was safe. Experience has now been gained, and there is no reasonable doubt that, if sufficient time be allowed for preparations, a much larger mass of voters can be polled effectively, but in this respect the initiative is not likely to be taken in India, and it is for Parliament, acting through its now established agency, the Joint-Committee, to set the Administration to work. A definite instruction issued next session to, let us say, double the number of voters before the elections of 1926 would be of incalculable value, partly because it would secure a more than proportionate improvement in the composition of the electorate, but mainly because it would set a new fashion for India, and go far to establish the principle that extension of the franchise must precede consideration of any proposals for the grant of further powers. That principle we regard as essential until the Constitution shall become really democratic.

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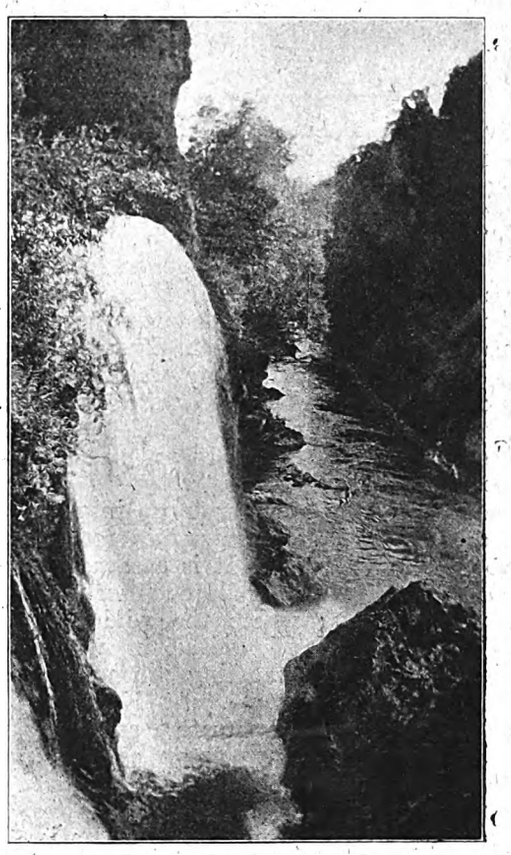
OLD PLACES OF THE SLAVS.

By W. E. D. ALLEN.

Zagreb is known to most as a point on the route of the Simplon-Orient, that magic institution which gives to commonplace voyagers fleeting glimpses into strange lands, and reminds Balkan politicians, pent in capitals of mud and dust, that every *wagon-lit* leads to Paris.

Zagreb is new and incomplete; a place of broad and shady streets, many handsome buildings, banks and institutions, theatres, cinemas, and hotels, but here and there are big, barren patches and considerable rubbish heaps, where linger desultory hens and an occasional jaded goat. Rackety peasant carts mingle with the trams, and small congeries of amazed sheep obstruct the way of enthusiastically driven autos. The Croats are proud of Zagreb, and compare it contemptuously with Belgrade, that battered blockhouse of the Serbs. The Croats love their railway station, which they believe must have a world importance in the sleepy eyes that look out on it for a few minutes on the way from Paris to Stamboul; they love their banks, their liqueur factory, their case factory, their furniture factory, and even their poor hotels. Zagreb is a fine town, and when you cannot get cigarettes in some hamlet of the Herzegovina, or when you are tortured by bugs in a Montenegrin hostel, your Croat chauffeur will, with a wry smile, drawl out in laboured German: "Hier ist nicht Zagreb." He will tell you, too, that you should stay in Zagreb a fortnight to gain a full appreciation of all its amenities and luxuries, and will think you a poor rustic fool when you say you have not heard the opera there. And, withal, Zagreb is a refreshing town, where man is well fed and willing to work—a young race, not given to luxury; and after the pinched and sallow misery of the Austrians and the triumphant vulgarity of "Schiebers" and tourists which haunts and affronts the traveller in Vienna, it is good to see in Zagreb the broad shoulders and brown, cheerful faces of the Croats.

To the Croats Zagreb means the proud base of their young industrialism; to the weary Western man, bound for long months in servitude to the gods of Pence, it means something infinitely more precious. To Zagreb you come in three days from London, and from Zagreb you come in a few hours into Bosnia. Bosnia has been described by Baedeker. Bosnia has Austrian roads and telegraphs and telephones, and Austrian hotels. But the Serb has saved it from the railway, and his dirty hands and the insects which follow his flag have stopped the filtering-in of tourists. And so Bosnia remains a secluded backyard of the East—a forgotten garden of the Middle Ages—on the very borders of Italy and Switzerland; and its forests and its bugs, its waterfalls and smells, its castles and its filthy inns, still mock the world of guides and waiters. In Bosnia, the traveller, when he gets beyond the Zagreb-Belgrade railway and the weary narrow gauge which links that with Serajevo and Ragusa, must wander in mediæval style. And although he may have a motor for a packhorse, he must lie in inns with tinkers, farmers, and recruits unless the lord of some old castle or the Trappist monks of Banjaluka will have compassion on him. But his nostrils will inhale the first faint whiffs of that great and generous and uplifting Smell of the East whose bard is Mr. Kipling; that smell which the gods of Pence in the Great Temple of London do perpetually withhold from him; that most old, most glorious, most worthy smell, which is dirty men and dirty sheep and dirty goats and dirty dogs and dirty huts and dirty bugs, which is a burning sun and



THE PLIVA FALLS—JAICE.

parching rocks, and ancient woods and rushing water and silent and still most stinking water, and coffee rich and sweet, and tobacco strong and pure, and women strong and beautiful and dirty. And he who wanders thus with his nose sniffing most gratefully and his fingers scratching most comfortably, will come upon ruins of which he cannot buy coloured postcards, and he will tramp the sides of mountains, with much labour and perspiration, which would have been quite unnecessary if he had had the advantage of the guidance of one of the employees of Mr. Thomas Cook and his son. An old water-wheel is astride the lovely falls of Jaice, where sits all day a genial contemplative Turk who, after the manner of his most unenterprising and retrograde race, has not yet roused himself to the possibilities of catering for visitors in "Jaice Rock" and caramels; and forty miles of scorching limestone protects the Bogu-

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milian tombs of Stolac from the autographic penknives of trans-Atlantic pilgrims.

There are two roads leading from Zagreb into Bosnia; one by Esseg to Banjaluka, the other by Karlovacs and Bihacs reaches Banjaluka from the south, passing through Krupa and Novi. Both roads run through long miles of flat unattractive agricultural country, but travellers are rewarded who take the longer southern road, which an hour after Karlovacs enters the silver-beech forests round Plinvica lakes, and then crosses the Krain—the old Austro-Turkish borderland—to Bihacs, and follows the beautiful valley of the Una to Krupa. From Zagreb to Banjaluka it is a two days' journey, and the traveller, if he has not met with the good fortune to be lodged by the hospitable owner of Ostrosacs, may pass the night either at Plinvica—where there is a clean, half-built hotel—or in the inn at Bihacs.

Plinvica is a lovely spot, which, when the railway comes nearer than Krupa and *wagon-lits* trundle their luxurious way down from Zagreb, may yet echo in its woods and grottoes, the "just lovely" of feminine appreciation. Hills and islands of oak and beech edge and intersperse thirteen lakes of deepest blue. Here the traveller may bask all day in a glorious sun, lying in a boat paddled by a slim brown Croat boy, naked for all but a cloth; or he may wander round the shores discovering innumerable waterfalls and hidden grottoes, where some misguided local busybody has already thought fit to plaster up apt quotations from Croatian poets.

From Plinvica the road leads up into forests of firs, and by a precipitous mountain road down to Petrovo Selo and Bihacs. It is a savage, desolate country, a land of many legends of Hungarian and Turkish forays; where the wild things still abound, and bears and wolves in winter come right into the little straggling villages. A great change, too, in the people. At Karlovacs there was a fair, where all the Croatian countryside was assembled, prosperous farmers in coloured leather jackets, felt trousers, and black hard hats after the Hungarian style, with their wives in clean, many-coloured blouses, full skirts, and wide, high head-dresses.

Over the mountains at Petrovo Selo the traveller might almost think himself in Anatolia. The men are tall and big-boned, thin, and very brown, ragged, dishevelled, and many, Christians as well as Moslems, wearing the crimson turban of Turkish days.

Bihacs might be a Turkish town; small white wood-tiled houses on piles among long reeds, overhanging the still river, cobbled streets of battered hovels, and here and there a little mosque. As we stopped to ask the way the muezzin's call drawled out through the evening air; a haze of flies drifted over a great garbage heap; a few ragged, turbaned men sat in a broken shed sipping coffee. A young Jew, the well-considered Jew of Moslem lands, with fez, check trousers and a cane, observed us with a lordly air, and the inevitable beggar wheezed out directions for the road we should not have taken.

The Castle of Ostrosacs is some long miles from Bihacs, seen in the dark, a pale grey shadow against the sky. The road follows the valley of the Una, crosses a rattling bridge of planks, and curls five precipitous kilometres up the mountain which the castle tops. The castle gates stand at the end of a little crumbling hamlet, where half-a-dozen red-turbaned Moslems sit in the coffee-stall of Mehmed Bey, who, when he was young and the Sultan's writ ran to the Save, was the feudal lord of Ostrosacs.

During the Austrian occupation the castle was purchased by a Croat official, who restored the exterior with artful taste. The existing walls are at least a thousand years old, and before the Turkish conquest the castle was a stronghold of the Counts of Blagai and a frontier *place d'armes* of the Bosnian kings. The family inhabits one wing, another is the stables, but the great area of the walled space is a mass of ruined stone-work, covered with undergrowth, a confusing place of broken towers, a keep, a dark well, and ominous great stone slabs, which lead to dungeons underground. Surprisingly there rises out of all this a great Roman tower, whose perfect brickwork has survived the rougher Bosnian stone-work so many centuries younger. The remains of a carved dragon, the head of which is yet perfect, tail in mouth, belt the tower.

To stand in the early morning sun among these bones of Roman and Mediæval chivalry, with the little silent broken Turkish hamlet alongside, and the lovely valley of the Una gleaming five or six hundred feet below; a sister mountain, brown scrub-covered, rising across the valley, and the peaks of others all round; a few straggling sheep and goats wandering down the bad hill-road, the only living things—is to think the race of man is dead, and these the last fast-disappearing signs of him.

(To be continued.)

"KING ALEXANDER'S BIRTHDAY."

December 17 was the thirty-sixth anniversary of the birth of King Alexander, of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. Major-General Sir John Hanbury-Williams, Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps, called upon M. Michel Gavrilovitch and offered King George's congratulations, and the full text of the message was at once telegraphed to King Alexander.

At noon a Te Deum was sung at the Russian Church of St. Philip, Buckingham Palace Road. M. and Mme. Gavrilovitch afterwards held a reception at the Legation for the members of the colony.

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Commercial & Financial Section.

NOTES AND NEWS.

167, Strand, London,
Tuesday Morning.

The Anglo-Persian Position.

The apprehension which has been felt in some quarters with regard to the position of the Anglo-Persian will, it may be hoped, be entirely removed as the result of Sir Charles Greenway's speech at yesterday's meeting. Comment has been made on the fact that the balance-sheet showed a loan from bankers of £2,829,000. Sir Charles explained that it was merely a temporary floating loan which had been arranged as an alternative to issuing further capital, and that only about one-third of the amount was outstanding to-day. He further pointed out that after drawing £1,830,000 from the reserve, there was a net increase in the total of about £500,000. Dealing with the current year's prospects, Sir Charles said it was impossible yet to give a definite forecast. "So far as it is possible to judge, however," he added, "I am afraid that we cannot look for any improvement in results for the current year. In the following year, however, we may, I think—subject, of course, to there being no further decline in the prices of our products—look for a very substantial improvement, as the Abadan refinery should then be on a full working basis, and the refineries which are being erected in Scotland and Australia by associated companies will, as mentioned in the report, be completed and in full operation."

The Outlook.

Dealing with the company's production, Sir Charles stated that the output for 1922-23 was 2,959,028 tons as compared with his estimate of 2,900,000 tons. For the current financial year it will probably amount to 3,775,000 tons, and for 1924-25 to well over 4,500,000 tons. It was inevitable that there should be some reference to the rumour that the Government have had under consideration the disposal of their holding in the company. Sir Charles said that he was not in a position to give them any information of a definite nature in the matter, but he understood that no decision had yet been arrived at. As regards future capital requirements, he said that if any further finance were needed in connection with the company's present programme it would only be of a temporary character, and to meet this it was not considered necessary to commit the company "to any further permanent obligations of a burdensome character."

The P. and O. Meeting.

The meeting of the P. and O. Company, as usual, was rendered notable by a very interesting address by the chairman, Lord Inchcape. The shipping industry has naturally been affected by the world trade depression to a peculiar extent, and Lord Inchcape said that, with few exceptions, every P. and O. voyage during the past twelve months had shown a loss. His anticipation is that it will take some years yet to get back to pre-war conditions—a cautious view which is clearly only too well founded in the light of what has happened since the Armistice. Lord Inchcape spoke with justifiable confidence with regard to the outlook for the company, which has, he pointed out, a magnificent fleet, which is being added to, and he expressed the hope that, come good times or bad, the company would continue to give satisfaction to the public in its services to India, the Far East, and Australia.

When Labour Rules.

In the course of his speech Lord Inchcape referred to the strike of dock labourers in July last, and remarked that he wished the men could realise how seriously such stoppages retarded the revival of trade and how seriously they increased unemployment. The P. and O. Company, he observed, working under a Government contract, was more seriously affected than other concerns, but he was glad to say that they had at considerable sacrifice maintained their sailings without a break. Lord Inchcape's opinion is that the remedy for unemployment lies in the hands of the trade unions. If they would relax their rules, he declared, and for a year or two give economic conditions free play, diminished production costs would find markets for an increased output of manufactured goods, and real wages would not be reduced, as the purchasing power of money would be increased. The political position came in for extended reference, and Lord Inchcape, who is a staunch believer in Free Trade, made an amusing reference to the result of the election. Special interest attaches to his remarks with regard to the Labour Party. He declared that he did not share the apprehensions with which many people regarded the possible advent of Labour to power, and he expressed a firm belief in the sobering nature of responsibility.

The Coming Cotton Crisis.

It is not necessary to be a close observer of developments with regard to cotton to realise that we are within measurable distance of the long foretold shortage of supply. Price movements in recent weeks have spoken eloquently of the possibilities of the situation. As will be seen from the Manchester report given in another column, the fluctuations during the past week have been such as to render business almost out of the question. It is true that, so far as can be seen, there is an ample supply of cotton available for the present year; it is after that that there is every prospect of a crisis, and there is a certainty of it if there is anything approaching a revival of trade by that time, an eventuality which can almost be taken for granted. What the effect will be on prices must remain to be seen.

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LIVERPOOL COTTON REPORT.

Small Spot Inquiry.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 12:—

Egyptian Spot.—During the past week conditions have shown little change from those ruling during the previous period. Wild fluctuations in the futures market completely deranged spot values, and few spinners could be found who had sufficient confidence in current values to add to their commitments. The little buying in evidence has continued to be strictly of a hand-to-mouth character, the feature of the week being a further narrowing of the difference between Sakellaridis and Uppers, necessitated by the shrinkage, which has lately taken place, in the premium at which the Egyptian contract has been standing over American. Yesterday, for the first time since the decline began, a distinctly better tone was noticeable in our markets here, and a general rallying of prices took place. At the first hint of this Manchester became quite active in her inquiries, and a certain amount of business actually was put down here and there. No general buying movement took place, however, the close proximity of the final United States Bureau report (to be published this evening) making the possibilities of the situation too hazardous. The general impression, both yesterday and to-day, is that we have seen the bottom as far as this season is concerned. The spot inquiry has been the smallest we have witnessed for a considerable period. A recrudescence in the inquiry for "low" cotton has been noticeable, prices asked ranging from 14.00d. to 18.00d. Sakellaridis has been asked for at from 25 "on" to 75 "on" January contracts. Fully good fair cotton can be bought at about 75-85 on. Interest in Uppers is still of small extent, and prices are very irregular, "good" cotton commanding a price of, roughly, from 50 off to "pass price" Egyptian January contracts. One or two inquiries for fine Sakellaridis have been passed round, but no business has so far resulted, and the general attitude adopted at present is to keep as close to the contract as possible, whilst waiting further developments in the situation. Sudan cotton has been neglected. Rather more c.i.f. business has taken place. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 7th inst. were returned as 14,502 bales—another heavy movement. Estimated sales, 1,700 bales Egyptian and 70 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis show a decline of 165 points, and those of brown and Upper, "fair" to "good," are 110 points lower, whilst fine and extra fine are 85 points lower on the week. Fully good fair Sakellaridis to-day 23.25d.

NEW VICKERS CONTRACTS

The Limerick County Council have accepted the tender of Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., for the supply of a 16 in. by 10 in. portable combined crushing, screening, elevating, and loading plant for use in connection with their road schemes. Other orders received by the above-mentioned firm include three 24 in. by 13 in. steel frame jaw crushers, screens, and motors for the Public Works Department of the Government of India in connection with the Sutlej Valley project, and also a Vickers' special gearless gyratory type of breaker for producing chippings. The latter machine is for use in Australia.

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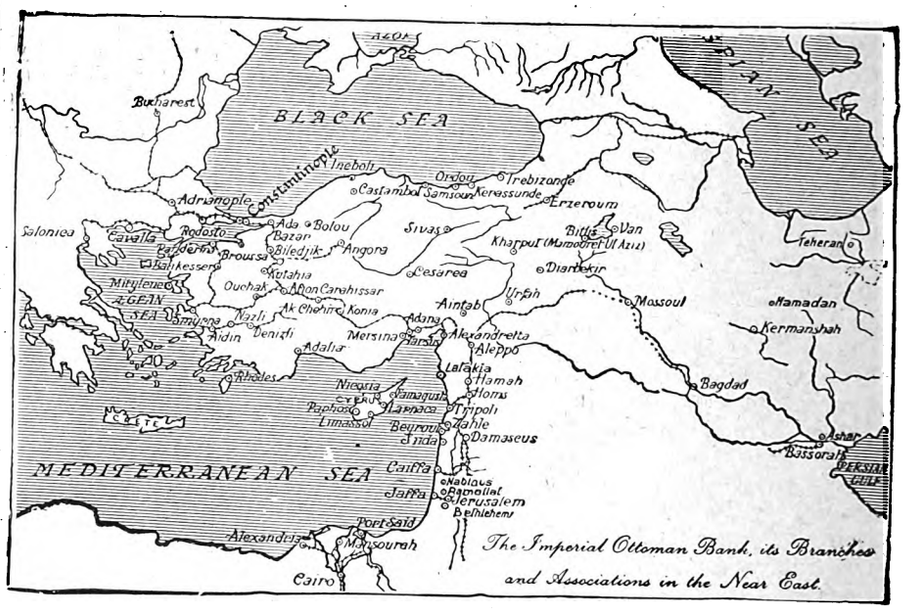

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

THE EGYPTIAN MARKET.

Wide Fluctuations in Futures.

The Alexandria Commercial Company in its report for the week ended December 7 states :—

Since our last report the futures market has been very excited, wide fluctuations being experienced. At the close the undertone was steadier. The week opened with very strong markets, and January, on Tuesday, touched $51, while December Ashmouni was pushed up as high as $46.85. These high levels of prices caused a great falling off in the trade demand, and the market here was thus deprived of its main support; a similar position developed in America, which, coupled with the higher estimates of the out-turn of the American crop, produced in New York a feeling of uneasiness and the market there became much weaker. This state of things caused speculators to liquidate, and a severe break has been the result; a panic ensued, speculators, native merchants, and banks threw on the market thousands of contracts, bringing January Sakel down to $42.75 and December Ashmouni to $40.75. The drop went too far, and as soon as the weak positions were liquidated a healthier tone prevailed and prices recovered. As most of the speculative positions were in January this delivery has suffered most, and the consequence has been that the difference with December Ashmouni has again narrowed to $2.75, against $4.75 a week ago. The demand from abroad was almost nil at the beginning of the week, but we understand that a fair amount of business has been done since the reaction. We are of opinion that the statistical position is too strong, and the world's requirements of cotton are too pressing to allow of cheap prices to be hoped for this season. The week's arrivals amount to 317,478 krs., against exports 463,759 krs.; the stock stands at 2,043,403 krs.

Spot.—We have had a fair week's business at Minet-el-Bassal, but the demand from abroad has fallen off considerably, due no doubt mainly to the sharp fluctuations which have naturally shaken buyers' confidence, and the turnover has been much smaller than for some weeks past. Sales amount to about 21,200 B/s, of which we estimate 13,800 B/s Sakel, 7,100 B/s Uppers, 150 B/s Pilion, and 150 B/s White. Arrivals are fairly large, but much smaller than last week, due principally to the recent rains in the interior. Exports continue on a free scale, and the stocks show a decrease from last week.

Sakellarides.—All styles have been dealt in, and though the medium qualities have attracted most attention, there has been a fair enquiry in low grades. High grades have been rather neglected. Prices of spot against contracts are without much change from good fair upwards; for fully fair and below they are slightly dearer.

Uppers.—There has been a fair enquiry for all grades. Prices of spot against contracts show very little change from last week, excepting fully fair, which is somewhat cheaper. In spite of the $12 discount from December into February, spot parities from good fair upwards are well maintained, and the December contract position appears to be well held.

Brown and Pilion.—No business is reported in brown, but a small business has been done in pilion. Spot prices against contracts are without much change.

White.—A moderate business has been done in medium and good grades. Prices of spot against contracts are generally unchanged.

COTTON TRADE REVIEW.

Business at a Standstill.

The Manchester Cotton Trade Review of the Imperial Ottoman Bank for the week ended December 15 states :—

The week has been remarkable for the extraordinary fluctuations in the price of raw cotton, and it must be a long time since such violent movements took place within so short a period. It is also to be hoped that it will be an equally long time before a similar state of affairs is again experienced. Under these conditions, of course, it is hopeless to expect any volume of business to be transacted in Manchester as, to manufacturers and merchants alike, they bring the risk of heavy losses almost from day to day. There seems to be little doubt that speculation is on a great scale, and is doing much harm to the industry. The opinion is freely expressed that this gambling should be checked, by Government action if necessary.

Yarn.—The fluctuations in raw cotton above referred to have produced a state which may be said to be bordering on chaos in this section, spinners being quite unable to fix prices. Naturally, under these conditions sales of any importance have been scarce. Shipments during November were 14,619,500 lb., against 14,733,500 lb. in October and 15,113,600 lb. in November last year.

Cloth.—For the reasons already mentioned business transacted in this section during the past week may be almost described as retail. Shipments last month were 349,697,400 were 14,619,500 lb., against 14,733,500 lb. in October and 398,726,300 sq. yds. in November last year.

Raw Cotton.—The eagerly awaited final crop estimate of the American Agricultural Bureau was published on the evening of the 12th inst., and gave the total as 10,081,000 bales. Both before the issue of the report and subsequent to it fluctuations in price were violent. Closing prices are as follows :—American Fully Middling, 20.03d.; Egyptian Fully Good Fair, 23.25d.

SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Circassia for Bombay (Liverpool, December 21).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Mulakuta for Calcutta (Birkenhead, December 29); s.s. Malia for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 4); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 5).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Sinclair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, January 3).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Swansea, January 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Cairo for Bombay (Birkenhead, December 29).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Bavarian for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, December 29).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, January 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Dromore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, and Constantza (Liverpool, December 22); s.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Delta for Bombay (London, December 28); s.s. Novara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, December 29).

Prince Line.—S.s. Soldier Prince for Malta, Alexandria, Syrian Coast, and Cyprus (London, December 22).

BREWING PLANT REQUIRED FOR YUGOSLAVIA.

The Commercial Secretary at Belgrade reports that it is proposed to extend the plant of a brewery in the early part of next year. The proprietors of the brewery are desirous of receiving catalogues of brewery machinery during the next few weeks. In forwarding the above information the Commercial Secretary adds that he understands that none of the larger breweries has purchased new plant within recent years, whilst the possibility of the future extension of some of the smaller firms is not excluded, and it might, therefore, be advisable to send catalogues to them. United Kingdom manufacturers of brewing plant desirous of obtaining the name of the brewery particularly referred to above, together with a list of breweries in Yugoslavia, should apply to the Department of Overseas Trade.

The production of the Indo-Burma Oilfields for October amounted to 4,424.8 barrels, being 2,984 barrels from Yenanma field and 1,440.8 barrels from Padaukpin field.

TEXTILES.

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Company Meetings.

ANGLO-PERSIAN OIL COMPANY.

Increased Production Anticipated.

The Government Holding.

The fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, Limited, was held on December 17 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street.

Sir Charles Greenway, Bt. (chairman of the company), presided.

The Secretary (Mr. John Clark) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: Ladies and gentlemen, you have had submitted to you our report and balance-sheet for the past financial year, and I have now the pleasure to make my comments thereon.

Profits.

When I last had the pleasure of addressing you, I was hopeful that we should at least be able to maintain our previous dividend. Unfortunately, however, owing to disappointments we have had in connection with the throughput of our refinery at Abadan, to which I will refer later, this is not the case. Nevertheless, the results shown by our accounts may, I think you will agree with me, be regarded as satisfactory, bearing in mind these disappointments and the fact that we have, following our usual conservative policy, made very full provision for depreciation and for any writings down that are necessary in connection with our prospecting and testing operations, both in Persia and in other parts of the world in our search for further sources of supply.

The dividend on the ordinary shares that we have recommended is 10 per cent. The profits made might have justified a higher dividend, but in view of the desirability of conserving our financial resources as much as possible, owing to the smaller revenue resulting from the failure of our Abadan refinery to realise its estimates, we have come to the conclusion, after full consideration, that the dividend we have recommended is all we should, with prudence, pay.

Current Year's Prospects.

As to prospects for the current year it is impossible yet to give a definite forecast. When I met you last year I indicated that we could not expect any increase in our dividend for the current year, but that we might look for a maintenance of the former dividend if the prices then current were maintained, because we expected to be dealing with a much larger volume of oil as the result of the various extensions to our refineries then in progress. In both of these respects, however, we have been disappointed. Prices of our main products have, as you are all aware, declined materially, and our Abadan refinery has, as I have already mentioned, so far failed to obtain the throughput for which it was designed. On the other hand, we shall gain some benefit from increased production, which, though not up to original estimates, will be substantially in excess of the year for which the accounts are now before you, and also there will be some set-off against the lower prices consequent on the reductions which we have been able to effect in our costs of distribution—partly as the result of the larger turnover and partly owing to the general decline in costs of all kinds which has taken place during the past twelve months. So far as it is possible to judge, however, I am afraid that we cannot look for any improvement in results for the current year. In the following year, however, we may, I think—subject, of course, to there being no further decline in the prices of our products—look for a very substantial improvement, as the Abadan refinery should then be on a full working basis, and the refineries which are being erected in Scotland and Australia by associated companies will, as mentioned in the report, be completed and in full operation.

Markets for Petroleum.

As to the future course of the markets for petroleum it is, of course, always dangerous to prophesy. Last year when I addressed you there was every indication of a speedy recovery in prices because of the serious falling off in the production in Mexico, but this was later on more than counterbalanced by a very large increase of production in the United States, the country which only quite recently was predicting the speedy exhaustion of its fields and claiming on that score a large participation in every other known oil field in the world. Now again, however, the production in that country has begun to fall off, and it would seem pretty certain that we are not far off the point at which demand will again overtake supply. If one follows the course of the world's production and of prices over a long period of years it will be seen that there is in oil as in most other commodities an automatic action and reaction, accounted for by the fact that a period of high prices gives a stimulus to production in the poorer fields where producing costs are high, which for a time causes the supply to overtake demand, and that a period of low prices has the contrary effect. The over-production of to-day is the direct result of the abnormally high prices current during and immediately subsequent to the war. The low prices current to-day must inevitably, in their turn, lead to the cessation or reduction of drilling in these poorer fields—the oil from which forms in the aggregate a large proportion of the world's total supply—and to the consequent reduction of the quantity of oil produced to a point at which supplies will again be overtaken by demand. This swing of the pendulum in oil is a certainty, but whether the return swing, in the direction of demand overtaking supply and consequent higher prices, has now commenced or not is largely a matter of opinion. My own is that it has, and that the unexpected increase of production in the United States resulting from the stimulus given by the abnormally high prices of three or four years ago was only a temporary check which is now nearly, if not quite, exhausted, whilst the fact that the world's consumption of oil products is yearly increasing by leaps and bounds must, necessarily, accentuate the reaction towards a recovery in prices.

Balance Sheet.

I will not detain you with long explanations of the balance-sheet because most of the items are self-explanatory. The amount of capital issued shows an increase on the previous years of a little over £2,200,000—the par proceeds of the recent issues of ordinary shares, less calls previously paid. The amount of debenture stock outstanding is reduced by £125,000, the amount redeemed during the year. The employees' provident, pension, and insurance fund shows an increase of about £260,000, and now stands at the very gratifying figure of over £816,000. The loan from bankers shown in the balance-sheet is a temporary floating loan which we have arranged as an alternative to issuing further capital. I will refer to this later on, but in the meantime I may mention that the amount outstanding to-day in respect of this loan is only about one-third of the sum shown in the balance-sheet. The reserves, which have been augumented by the premia realised on the last issue of ordinary shares and by a further allocation of £100,000 to the debenture redemption fund, show a net increase of about £500,000, after withdrawing from them £1,830,000 for the purpose explained in the report.

The Dividend.

The balance at the credit of profit and loss account, after paying dividends on the preference shares for the half-year ended September 30, 1922, was, as you will see, £2,993,051 17s. 2d. Out of this we have since paid a further £437,500 in respect of preference dividends for the half-year ended March 31, 1923, and out of the balance remaining we now recommend the payment of the dividend of 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares, to which I have previously referred, absorbing £777,763 14s., leaving a balance of £1,777,788 3s. 2d. to be carried forward. This balance is again a very large one, but it is, as before, subject to such excess profits duty as we may be liable to pay for the year ended March 31, 1921, and also to corporation profits tax for the year ended March 31. What the ultimate liability in regard to the first of these items may be is still uncertain, but whatever it may be both it and the corporation profits tax are much more than covered by the balance carried forward.

As you will see, we have made no further allocation from profit and loss account this year for concession amortisation reserves, because the cost of the concession has already been written down to a very low figure. Neither have we made any appropriation to general reserve, because this fund has now been applied to the main purpose for which it was originally created—viz., to the writing down of certain investments and expenditure connected with our prospecting and drilling operations outside of Persia, and to making a special provision against others which are still in course of examination and may not prove to be capable of successful commercial exploitation.

Advances to Associated Companies.

Turning to the assets side of the balance-sheet, you will see that the first item—viz., "purchase price of concession, shares in and advances to associated companies, etc.," shows an increase for the year of about £6,000,000, this representing principally further advances to associated companies to meet capital outlay which has been incurred during the year in connection with additions to our fleet, refineries, and distributing organisations. The contingent liability of £1,961,904 referred to in small type will to a large extent disappear in the near future, as the principal item included therein is no longer a real liability, and steps are being taken to extinguish the bulk of it. The next item,

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"refineries, tank installations, pipelines, etc.," shows an increased capital outlay for the year in respect of these assets, after allowing for depreciation, of about £1,100,000.

The further items on this side of the balance-sheet call for no remark.

Unfounded Rumours.

A good deal of loose talk has, I am sorry to say, been current during the past few months as to the financial position of the company. Statements have been made in the Press—and even under cover of the sanctity of Parliamentary privilege—as to "colossal losses" which we are supposed to have made. The past and present published accounts of the company and the full information which I have given you from time to time, and which I am continuing to-day, as to the policy of the company, are, and should have been to those who made them—whether innocently or for ulterior motives—sufficient refutation of these ridiculous suggestions.

Colossal expenditure, both of a capital and revenue character, there has, of course, been, because this is a colossal company—the biggest British industrial concern, I believe, measured by the widespread extent and value of its assets, which exists in the Empire to-day, notwithstanding that we have only been in existence for fourteen years, and that our chief developments have been made during a period of difficulty without a parallel in commercial history, but the whole of this expenditure was legitimate and absolutely essential to the building up and maintenance of our business as a self-contained organisation, in accordance with the policy laid down when the Government entered into partnership with us.

The basis for some of these attacks upon us has no doubt been the common knowledge that we have incurred a considerable amount of expenditure in connection with our prospecting and drilling operations in the Argentine and other countries outside of Persia, and that a good deal of our recent capital expenditure in additions to our fleet, pipelines, refineries, etc., was incurred at a time when costs were much higher than they are to-day.

The expenditure we have incurred in respect of the first of these two items can, so long as it is met out of current profits from year to year, and so long as it does not bear an undue proportion to the amount of profits earned—a principle which we have invariably strictly followed—no more be regarded as "losses" than can the money which a farmer expends in putting manure on his land or seed into the ground. No prudent business man—be he merchant, manufacturer, or tradesman—takes all of his profits year by year out of his business since in most cases, if he did so, it would quickly die of inanition, but retains some portion of them in the business for the purpose of endeavouring to maintain or expand his operations. This, gentlemen, is the policy we have been following, in common with every other considerable oil undertaking, in regard to our search for further oilfields both inside and outside of Persia, and it is, I am sure you will all agree with me, an absolutely sound one and essential to our future welfare.

Expenditure Outside Persia.

In this connection I would like to point out that the expenditure which we have incurred in prospecting and drilling outside of Persia is no different in character from that which we have been incurring in similar operations inside the area of our Persian concession ever since our company was formed. Both were for the purpose of augmenting our reserves of crude and making the future of the company more secure, and in respect of our Persian prospecting and testing operations, some of which have, of course, also been barren of result, we have in past years expended, and are still expending, very large sums, all of which are, of course, duly written off from year to year out of profits, just the same as is being done in the case of the expenditure incurred in connection with our outside operations. Expenditure of this nature is inevitable in the oil business if properly conducted and if carried on, as we are doing, in all its branches, from the point of production of the crude to distribution of the refined products to the consumer, and is common to all the larger companies. It is in effect a necessary form of insurance against the falling off in production or exhaustion of any particular proved field, but to avoid misunderstandings I would add that our search for oil in other parts of the world has not been undertaken through any want of faith in the potential life or richness of the fields we are now working in Persia—which year by year give increased indications of productivity—or in the existence in Persia of other fields of equal extent and richness; but by the desirability of securing supplies of crude in other parts of the world and thereby broadening the basis of the company, having in view the world-wide character of the refining and distributing organisations which we have had to create in order to dispose of our present Persian production.

Policy of Development.

No one who has had the least experience of the oil business would ever dream of expecting that every prospecting and drilling operation carried out in the search for additional sources of supply would lead to the finding of a paying field. Everyone knows that the only real test of the value of a field is the drill. When we take up a concession we adopt every precaution we can before embarking on any considerable expenditure, first by having it examined and reported upon by experienced geologists, and then only proceeding to test it by the drill if the geologists' reports are satisfactory. But as most of you are aware, geology is not an exact science, so far as defining whether oil is, or is not, present in commercial quantities in any given area of supposed petroliferous territory, and we should consider ourselves very fortunate indeed, and the expenditure connected with them as amply justified, if only one out of every ten of our test drilling operations resulted in the proving of a remunerative field; but you will be pleased to learn that as a matter of fact the operations which we have been carrying on have so far considerably exceeded this proportion of successes, and that the new territory so far proved as the result of these operations is of a value far in excess of the amount expended on the whole of our testing operations since our company first came into existence.

Tanker and Refinery Expenditure.

I will now deal with the other direction in which it has been suggested that we have made enormous "losses"—namely, in our capital expenditure on tankers and refineries. It is true that we could replace some of these to-day at a much lower cost, but to describe this difference as a "loss" is ludicrous, because they were, and are, essentials of our business, just as much as the plough which a farmer buys to till his land or the carts to carry his crops, and had we delayed ordering them until now in order to avail ourselves of to-day's lower costs we should have been still worse off; for, in the case of the tankers, we should either not have been able to produce the oil that they have carried at all, and therefore have lost the profits we have made on it, or have had to pay ruinous rates of freight on it to other tanker owners; and, in the case of the refineries, not have been able to refine the oil at all and also have been minus the profits we have made on it. In both cases we should undoubtedly have been in a worse position financially than we are to-day, and, moreover, our whole scheme of creating a self-contained organisation capable of carrying on the oil business in all its branches would have been upset and delayed for three years or more. The misunderstanding as to our position in regard to our fleet is no doubt due to the point of view that would be taken by a shipowner who had contracted for dear tankers as a shipping investment pure and simple. From that point of view our purchases when the cost of building was high would, of course, have appeared very bad ones, as he would not have had the indirect advantages which we, as an oil company, have gained by the creation of a fleet capable of carrying all the oil we produce and refine.

Tanker Fleet.

As I have pointed out on a previous occasion our tanker fleet is, in effect, only an extension of our pipelines, both being for the purpose of transporting our oil from the wells to the consuming markets. And our fleet of tankers is just as much an essential of our business as a whole as our pipelines, our refineries, our distributing organisations, our motor lorries, or even the tins in which we deliver our petrol to the consumer. As a matter of fact, however, even looking at the cost of our fleet from the point of view of a shipowner the position is by no means unsatisfactory, for not only have we always written off the customary depreciation, but we have from year to year written off large sums of extra depreciation, with the result that its cost—and it is practically a new fleet—now stands in our books at a very moderate figure, and

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any difference between this figure and the probable replacement cost to-day is fully covered by our reserves.

With these explanations you will see how unsubstantial are the rumours to which I have referred, but as they appear to have gained a certain amount of credence, and not unnaturally have caused some uneasiness among shareholders, I will, however, go further and say with confidence that the balance-sheet now before you is one of the finest and most conservative ever placed before any body of shareholders, and one of which we have every reason to feel proud. All assets which have depreciated in value have either been written down or reserved against to their replacement value, and, following the practice of all soundly conducted industrial concerns, not a single one of the assets which have appreciated has been written up by one penny. And were the whole of the assets of the Company taken at their true value to-day they would, in my opinion, at a modest computation, stand at from two to three times the figures represented in the balance-sheet now before you.

Capital Expenditure.

One other explanation which I think it my duty to give you is this. The expenditure of a capital nature during the past three years by the Anglo-Persian and its subsidiary companies has amounted to a total of about £32,000,000, not the modest £10,000,000 which we are accused of having laid out in that period, but £32,000,000, which sum is represented by a vast amount of property all essential to the proper and economic working of our business: wells, pipelines, pumping stations, whole towns occupied by our employees, refineries, a railway, our tankers, and a large flotilla of smaller steamers, tugs, barges and other river and harbour craft, a vast amount of tank storage, ocean and inland bunkering and distributing installations, etc., in all parts of the world. Out of this amount only £12,000,000 was provided for by the new capital issues (including premiums) made during those years. Of the remainder no less than £12,000,000 was met out of earnings during that period, and £6,000,000 out of funds which we had in hand at the beginning of the period. The remainder has been financed on terms much more favourable than those on which we could have raised new capital. This proof of the extent to which we have been building up our present vast concern out of revenue will, I am sure, be a pleasing surprise to most of you, and be a further confirmation of all I have said as to the sound position of the Company and the conservatism of the policy which we have been following in regard to our finances.

Attacks on Administration.

With regard to the attacks which have been made upon the administration of the company, I do not think it necessary to enter into any defence beyond the explanations I have already given to you. The object of these attacks is self-evident, but the successful records of the company and the facts I have given to you to-day more than refute the gross misstatements and criticisms of our would-be detractors. All successful concerns arouse the jealousy and envy of others—the more so an oil company such as ours, which, in the face of great difficulties and opposition, has made itself a potent influence in the world's markets. That it has shown such satisfactory results as it has, notwithstanding these difficulties, and despite the fact that it is supplying the Navy with a large proportion of its fuel oil requirements at a very favourable rate, are evidences which speak for themselves.

I must apologise for occupying so long a time with these explanations, but they are necessitated by the many incorrect statements which have recently been current—but now that I have had an opportunity of placing the facts before you I hope that the real position of the company will be better appreciated and understood, and that I shall not again have occasion to rebut malicious and possibly libellous attacks of this nature.

The Government Shares.

I might here also refer to another rumour affecting our company, confirmation of which has actually been given in the House of Commons by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I refer to the rumour that the Government are considering the disposal of their Anglo-Persian shares and thereby of their control of the company. We, of course, would not normally be interested in such a daily occurrence as a transaction in our shares, and no more in this case than in any ordinary case have we any control over the sale of his shares by one of our shareholders. You will recognise, therefore, that we are in no way parties to such a proposal, nor have we as a board been consulted, or need we be consulted by this particular shareholder any more than by any other ordinary shareholder contemplating a sale of his shares. I am consequently not in a position to give you any information of a definite nature in the matter. I understand, however, that no decision in the matter has yet been arrived at, but you can take it, I think, that no sale of this nature will be effected without the interests of the other shareholders in the company being fully protected.

Capital Requirements.

Some curiosity has been expressed as to whether or not we shall require to make any further capital issues. As mentioned last year, and as I have further explained to-day, we have been and still are meeting our capital requirements to a large extent out of revenue, and we see no reason at present for anticipating that this source will not suffice for all our requirements. In any case, should any further finance be required in connection with the carrying out of our present programme, it will be only of a temporary nature, and to meet this it is not considered necessary by the board to commit the company to any further permanent obligations of a burdensome character. It is, however, open to us under the articles of association, should the need at any time arise, to create an additional £5,000,000 of debenture stock.

As mentioned in the report, the last issue of ordinary shares was again very largely over-subscribed, and as in the case of the previous issue we had great difficulty in satisfying the demands of applicants. Since this issue was made the market price of these shares has—in common with most other oil shares and as a result of the fall in the value of oil products—undergone a substantial decline, accentuated, no doubt, by the unfounded rumours which have been current, but, as you will have gathered from my previous remarks, I do not think any of the shareholders who subscribe for the shares as an investment will ultimately have any reason for regretting their bargain.

Refineries.

As you will have seen from the report the refinery at Llandarcy continues to give satisfactory results, and the throughput shows a steady increase. Mention is made of the plant which has been installed there for the purpose of full refining—that is, not only for the manufacture of petrol, kerosene, and fuel oils as at present, but also for the manufacture of lubricating oils, wax, and other by-products. This was, as I think I have mentioned on a previous occasion, a part of the original scheme for a home refinery, and was resolved upon in order that we might gain by the establishment of such a refinery the advantage of the additional profits to be derived from the manufacture of these products, but we have delayed installing the necessary plant until our research chemists had been able to advise us, after thorough investigation and many practical experiments, as to the products which would give the best results and the best types of plant for the purpose. These investigations have recently been completed and the plant necessary for dealing with a portion of the throughput on this basis has been installed and is to some extent now working. Our development in this direction will, however, necessarily be gradual because we wish to feel our way cautiously, and, moreover, our markets for these additional products have to be created. We are also, as stated in the report, erecting at Llandarcy additional plant for the refining of light distillates imported from our Abadan refinery, where the heavy distillates will be left for the supply of Eastern markets in which better prices for their products can be realised.

The refinery which has been erected by one of our associated companies in France has been completed, and is working satisfactorily, and the refineries which are being erected in Scotland and Australia by other associated companies are also on the point of completion and will shortly

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be affording us further outlets for our supplies of crude.

So far the record of our refineries is satisfactory, but at our Persian refinery—Abadan—I regret to say that we have, as I have mentioned before, again had some serious disappointments. The chief causes of these—viz., the fire which occurred last year, stoppages to repair defects due to continuous enforced running during the war consequent on the demands made on us for naval and military requirements, and serious outbreaks of cholera and plague, have been referred to in the report. As a result of these difficulties our throughput at Abadan for the current financial year is not likely to total much more than 2,000,000 tons, against an estimated throughput of about 2,700,000 tons. Most of these difficulties have, however, now been overcome, and our latest cabled estimates indicate that from now onwards an improvement will set in and that by March next the full estimated throughput which I have indicated may be anticipated.

The outbreaks of cholera and plague to which I have referred resulted, I regret to say, in the loss of a considerable number of our employees, including many of our skilled workmen, the replacement of whom has necessarily been a slow process and has considerably aggravated our difficulties.

The Shale Industry.

With regard to the operations of Scottish Oils, Limited, I regret to say that the heavy fall which has taken place in the prices of products has seriously affected the position of the shale industry, which at the moment is being conducted at a heavy loss. This loss is offset to some extent by the profit which is being made on the refining of Persian crude oil, but this aid is adventitious, and does not suffice to cover the loss on shale operations. The directors are very loth to close down the shale mines in view of the far-reaching effect this would have, and particularly because of the serious unemployment which would inevitably result. They have decided, therefore, to carry on for the time being, but unless conditions improve, or assistance in some form or other is provided for the industry, a very serious situation will arise within the next few months. Meantime, the directors have been compelled to pass the interim dividend on the participating preference shares which in the ordinary course would be paid next month. As I have already mentioned, the new refinery at Grangemouth is nearing completion, and when in operation will benefit Scottish Oils, Limited. It would be manifestly unsound, however, permanently to utilise the profits of one distinct industry—that is the refining of imported crude oil—in order to keep alive another industry—the extraction of crude oil from shale—which can only be worked at a loss.

Distributing Organisations.

As regards our distributing organisations, both at home and abroad, our present programme of developments is practically completed, and the capital expended on them is now, I am pleased to say, bearing fruit in the form of rapidly increasing sales of every one of our products. Our B.P. petrol, in particular, is daily coming more and more into demand, some outstanding successes in open-air competitions and on the Brooklands track during October having proved very conclusively the great superiority and reliability of our spirit over all other qualities now on the market. Many shareholders have complained that sufficient attention is not drawn in our advertisements to the fact that B.P. petrol is the manufacture of the Anglo-Persian Company, and that, in consequence, many motorists who would otherwise purchase it allow themselves to be put off with other qualities. This complaint has some justification so far as roadside and garage signs are concerned, and will in the future be remedied as much as possible, although it is our wish to reduce the number of the former as far as we can do so consistently with the action of our competitors. But as regards Press advertisements, I think I am correct in saying that we never fail to show that the British Petroleum Company and the other organisations employed in the distribution of B.P. petrol are the distributing organisations of the Anglo-Persian Company.

Production.

I now come to the most important branch of our business—viz., production, on which the whole future prosperity of our Company is based, and in this connection I am pleased to say that I have again nothing but good news to give you.

So far as our original producing areas in Persia are concerned I can only confirm my statements at these meetings in previous years as to the wonderful manner in which the production of the wells is standing up. With increased pipeline facilities, which are now fully completed to handle the 5,000,000 tons per annum referred to by me on previous occasions, we have been able gradually to open out other wells with most gratifying results. These wells I should explain are not by any means opened out fully to the pipelines, and I hesitate to place any figures on maximum capacities if they were allowed to produce "all out." It may suffice if I say that in several cases the capacity of F7—to which I have frequently referred and which is still producing 12,500 barrels daily, and has now produced a total of no less than 5¼ million tons—has been largely exceeded. We could obtain more accurate records of individual productions by closing in wells entirely, but owing to the high gas pressure to do so would be to incur unjustifiable risks. I need scarcely remind you that we are still in the fortunate position of having only flowing production—*i.e.*, "Gushers"—and that all of them are of large capacity, advantages in cost of production which men with oil experience will fully appreciate.

The development of production is best shown by continuing the table of figures which I gave you last year, viz. :—

Production for	1918-19	was	1,106,415 tons
,,	,, 1919-20	,,	1,385,301 ,,
,,	,, 1920-21	,,	1,743,557 ,,
,,	,, 1921-22	,,	2,327,221 ,,
,,	,, 1922-23	,,	2,959,028 ,,

as compared with my estimate last year of 2,900,000 tons.

For the current financial year it will probably amount to 3,775,000 tons, and for the following year it should amount to well over 4,500,000 tons.

Test Drilling and Extensions of Proved Territory.

During the year we have in Persia been continuing our policy of putting down test wells on the confines of our proved areas, with the result that we have again considerably extended the area of our proved territory in Maidan-i-Naftun and Maidan-i-Naftek, and a test well which we have put down in an adjoining valley called Maidan-i-Bibian has, we have been advised during the past few days, proved a further considerable area, by bringing in a well which is reported to have a capacity of at least 5,000 barrels a day. The actual capacity of the well cannot be ascertained until it has been shut in and the flow measured, but our advices state that the figure indicated can be taken as a "very safe" estimate. It is needless to say that this development is of the first importance, as it has opened up an extensive addition to our present reserves, and it is quite conceivable that it will add another area to our producing territory in this part of our concession at least as large as Maidan-i-Naftun.

In the report now in your hands reference is made to the discovery of a new oilfield in an entirely different area. This field is a considerable distance from any of our existing working fields, and as it would require the laying of a new and costly pipeline it is not intended to work it until we have ascertained more exactly its extent and productivity. The first test well which was put down in the field is giving a daily production of 1,000 barrels under heavy pressure—which most producers would consider ample testimony of a proved field justifying immediate development—but we prefer a more cautious policy, and shall await the result of some further test wells which we are putting down before embarking on any large expenditure in connection with it.

At present we have altogether 17 test wells drilling on outside areas in Persia on structure considered by our geologists to be externally promising and conveniently adjacent to our existing pipeline system on the seaboard. If extensive seepages and favourable structures can be regarded as potential oilfields, these should add largely to our crude oil reserves, but in oil drilling predictions are dangerous, and, as I have already indicated, we may consider ourselves fortunate if only a small proportion of these result in proving the existence of paying fields.

Operations in Outside Areas.

As regards our testing operations outside of Persia, our tests in Hungary and Croatia have so far both failed to confirm geological predictions, but we have not yet decided upon abandonment.

In the Argentine two of our tests—viz., those at Santa Cruz and Neuquen—have also not fulfilled our geologists's anticipations and have been abandoned. At the Commodoro Rivadavia the small wells referred to in my speech last year are still producing, but not in sufficient quantity to lead us to hope that production on a scale that would justify commercial exploitation under existing conditions in the Argentine will be obtained. We are, however, now awaiting the results of drilling in five wells after cementation. In the event of these wells being satisfactory producers the whole question of our holdings and of the regulations now in force will be discussed with the Argentine Government, who have.

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

FOUNDED 1895.

	Levas
Capital paid up	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1922	93,400,000
Premium Income during 1922	98,300,000
Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed	300,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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I am pleased to say, shown us every courtesy and consideration. On the other hand, if the five wells above referred to fail to find oil in satisfactory quantities we shall reluctantly be compelled to withdraw from our testing operations in that country, and, as you will have seen from the report, we have made due provision for this contingency.

Test drilling still continues under difficult working conditions in Papua on behalf of the Commonwealth Government, who are naturally keenly desirous of developing the oil resources of the island. So far operations have been impeded by heavy gas pressure and a heaving mudstone formation, but we are not without hope that these difficulties will be eventually overcome.

During the year the British Tanker Company's fleet has been working very satisfactorily. Seven new tankers have been added to the fleet and one old boat has been sold. The total fleet belonging to the company and its subsidiaries, including river steamers, barges, launches, etc., now numbers 240 vessels of all sizes and descriptions.

Relations with the Persian Government.

I am happy to say that our relations with the Persian Government are of a satisfactory character, and that the anti-British feeling which existed in Persia when I last addressed you is now less acute. The importance of this great oil industry to the material welfare of a country in the position of Persia is at last being better understood by the Persians themselves as, quite apart from the very substantial sums which we are paying from year to year to the Persian Treasury in the form of royalty, the many indirect gains to the country from the large amounts we are spending in the country on labour and materials, and from the encouragement we are giving to the training and employment of skilled local labour, are beginning to be more fully recognised and appreciated. The education and training facilities to which I referred last year have, I am pleased to report, been further augmented during the past 12 months, and are proving a success. Our relations with H.E. the Shekh of Mohammerah and the Bakhtiari Khans continue to be friendly.

The medical services provided by the company have been maintained and extended. During the summer the service had to deal with the virulent epidemics of cholera and plague to which I have already referred, and had it not been for the organised efficiency of our medical branch and for the whole-hearted manner in which our doctors grappled with these scourges the death roll would have been even greater than it was. Most of the deaths occurred inside the precincts of the refinery area itself, and evidence is now available that the diseases did not originate in any sphere of the company's operations.

Staff.

I would ask you again to join with me in expressing our appreciation of the services rendered by the staffs of the Anglo-Persian Company and its many subsidiary and associated companies in this country and in other parts of the world during the past year. In some directions they are particularly entitled to our appreciation, as they have, as you will have gathered from some of my references, at times been carrying on their duties under extremely trying and dangerous conditions.

In London we continue to suffer serious inconvenience and loss of efficiency owing to the fact that our office staff is scattered about in a number of different buildings—13 is, I think, the number to-day—but as our new building in Finsbury Circus is approaching completion we hope that this difficulty will be overcome within the next few months.

I now beg to move: "That the report, balance-sheet, and profit and loss account for the year ended March 31, 1923, be received, approved, and adopted."

The Rt. Hon. Lord Inchcape, G.C.M.G., K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., seconded the motion.

A short discussion followed, in the course of which the Chairman, in reply to a shareholder, said that the payment of half-yearly dividends would be taken into consideration by the board.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Chairman next moved: "That a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, less income-tax, on the ordinary shares of the company, be declared in respect of the year ended March 31, 1923, and that such dividend be paid on January 31 next."

Sir John T. Cargill, Bart., seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The Chairman proposed: "That Sir John Cadman, Messrs. Wm. Fraser, D. Garrow, J. B. Lloyd, and H. E. Nichols be and are hereby re-elected to the board."

Admiral Sir Edmond J. W. Slade, K.C.I.E., K.C.V.O. (vice-chairman), seconded the resolution, which was approved.

The auditors (Messrs. Brown, Fleming and Murray) having been reappointed, a cordial vote of thanks and confidence was given to the chairman, directors, the management, and the staff at home and abroad, and the proceedings then terminated.

P. AND O. STEAM NAVIGATION.

Lord Inchcape on Free Trade and the Revival of Industry.

Presiding on December 12 at the eighty-third annual meeting of the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Lord Inchcape said that, with few exceptions, every P. and O. voyage during the past twelve months had shown a loss. They were able to recommend the same dividend as last year, but it was derived more from dividends on investments and from other sources than from surplus on the working of the ships. The insurance fund had not done badly. They had added to it £105,000, bringing it to a total of £3,200,000. The fund had had to make good the value—£51,000—of one steamer lost during the year which had belonged to one of their associates. Their risks were well spread, covering 459 ships, but with so many ships at sea they were never altogether free from anxiety, notwithstanding the skill and prudence of their captains, officers, and engineers.

A Metaphor.

He had been in considerable anxiety lately regarding their most valuable ship, caught without warning in a typhoon. Fortunately she was in charge of the veteran skipper Captain Asquith and Chief Officer Lloyd George. That ship, well found, like all P. and O. ships, had come through undamaged. Her name was Free Trade.

New Steamers.

Four new mail steamers for the Australian trade had been commissioned during the year—Moldavia, Mongolia, Mooltan, and Maloja—the first two each of 15,800 tons, the last two each of 20,800 tons gross. They had large cargo and frozen meat capacity and accommodation for in all 2,093 first and second saloon passengers in airy and comfortably-fitted cabins. Four steamers, each of 15,200 tons, and one of 10,000 tons gross had been ordered for the Indian mail service, and three passenger and cargo steamers of 15,000 tons each for the Australian trade, all of which, like the Mongolia, Mooltan, and Maloja, would burn oil fuel. The increased size of their vessels had enabled them to place practically the whole of the accommodation on the upper, spar, and promenade decks. Passengers would welcome the greater number of single and two-berth cabins, many with private bathrooms, for which there was an increasing demand.

Wages Adjustments.

They had been reluctantly compelled to reduce wages from the high levels to which Government Boards had raised them during the war. These reductions had been accepted in the best spirit, their captains, officers, engineers, and lower grades realising the need to reduce working expenses more nearly to the level of earnings.

Labour Difficulties.

Owing to the national strike of dock labourers in July last, work was at a standstill in all London docks but Tilbury Dock for seven weeks. The strike was a breach of a national agreement endorsed by the men. He wished the men could realise how seriously such stoppages retarded the revival of trade and how much they increased unemployment. They heard a good deal in these days about the cost of living and a better standard of life. He was satisfied every employer of labour in the country desired to improve the condition of the workers, but it was patent that unless people were prepared to work harder, and thus help the revival of our foreign trade, unemployment would tend to increase.

Unbroken Regularity of Mail Steamers.

To such a company as the P. and O., working under a Government contract, the withdrawal of quayside labour was a greater loss than to owners free to leave their ships idle. Mail steamers must sail to time, strike or no strike, and he was glad to say that they had, at considerable sacrifice, maintained their mail sailings without a break.

Threatened Renewal of the Strike.

The unions now threatened to demand higher wages from February 1, 1924. Shipowners had, he said, to choose between closing down their business or conceding the men's demands. If the shipowners and the Port of London Authority refused the increase the old story would be repeated, and men willing to work for the present rate of 10s. a day would be prevented by picketing. In resisting these demands they were merely fighting for the public, who eventually had to pay.

A Remedy for Unemployment.

In his (the speaker's) judgment, the remedy for unemployment lay in the hands of the trade unions. If the unions would relax their rules and for a year or two give economic conditions free play diminished production costs would find world markets for an increased output of manufactured goods. Real wages would not be reduced, as the purchasing power of money would be increased. To earn

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twenty shillings which will buy only ten shillings' worth of goods at pre-war value was, he said, of no advantage to anybody. It was folly to keep up nominal wages, shorten hours, and restrict production at a time when a million idle people were costing fifty millions a year—the whole of it, in effect, a tax on the workers. To get rid of unemployment would be to exchange fifty millions of money which is unproductive for fifty millions of productive money, with a reaction upon the welfare of our population which it would be difficult to assess.

Traffic.

The steamers of the P. and O. Co. and its associates had during the year covered over sixteen millions of miles. They had made 29,000 entries into ports, they had carried nearly fourteen million tons of cargo, 215,551 animals, 1,800,000 passengers, and on board their ships the average daily number of men employed was 40,000.

The Fleet.

The average age of their tonnage was about seven years; it stood in the books at £23 a ton—£11 deducting reserves, and at an even lower figure if they took into account the market appreciation of their investments. It could not be replaced to-day for less than £36 to £40 a ton. This, of course, meant very little if their voyages produced nothing beyond the operating costs. Some of their allies had done better than they, perhaps because they were free from mail contract obligations. He did not begrudge that, as any advantage eventually accrued to the P. and O.

The Debenture Issue.

The recent issue of £3,500,000 Five per Cent. Debenture Stock had brought in applications exceeding thirteen millions. They were fortunate to have made the issue just before a then Minister of the Crown had recommended the inflation of the country's currency system by a resort to the printing press.

The Danger of Inflation.

Continuing, Lord Inchcape said he had on various occasions expressed his views on Free Trade, and, while he did not propose to embark on an economic dissertation, he would put his views once more very briefly. Many distinguished men honestly regarded Protection as a remedy for unemployment, but he believed a free interchange of commodities with the whole world was the sheet anchor of the country, and that now the ground tackle would hold for many a long day.

He imagined that any political leader who again raised the issue of Protection in Great Britain would be taken charge of and firmly locked up by his followers. He maintained we should continue our policy of reducing expenditure and paying off debt, with a speedy return to the gold standard. He rejoiced that a further resort to inflation had been promptly ruled out by Mr. Baldwin. With any contrary policy London would soon cease to be the world's financial centre.

Imperial Conferences.

It was of great value to the Empire that Imperial Conferences should be held every few years, although they had had a somewhat disturbing influence on our domestic affairs. The Dominions were Protectionist countries; they had for many years advocated Imperial Preference, but so far we had not adopted their proposals. The Prime Minister's recent appeal to the country for a mandate had been turned down just as it was seventeen years ago.

He hoped, when the next Imperial Conference was being arranged, any mention of Imperial Preference or tariffs would be excluded. He would not rule out Free Trade within the Empire, but as the Dominions depended upon tariffs for a large part of their revenue, that would for many years not be a practical proposition. He believed each of the countries under the Crown should be free to choose its own way without any attempt by either side to influence the other's fiscal policy.

Government Competition.

Continuing, his lordship said they were still faced with Government competition; there was competition by the Government of the United States and the legacy of government ownership left by Mr. Hughes, the late Premier of Australia, who, with no experience as a shipowner, had started a Government Shipping Department which had cost his country millions which it would never see again.

To supplement deficits on voyages and provide for depreciation from the taxpayers' pocket was not business, and he thought the taxpayer would get tired of it. Governments should leave business to the business community, and so would have the genius and energy of the commercial classes working not only for themselves, but also for the State. This had been abundantly proved by the results of every commercial undertaking upon which the Government had embarked.

A Word for the Labour Party.

He would add one word more—the Leader of the Labour Party had proposed, whenever he got into power, to nationalise many of our private enterprises. He, the speaker, did not share the apprehensions with which many people regard the possible advent of the Labour Party to power. If they ever formed the country's government they would have reached that position by strictly constitutional means, and would be entitled to the fair play which British Ministers expected and deserved. He did not agree with their programme, and he knew their programme would not agree with him, but no section of the community had more interest in the welfare and stability of the country's institutions than the great body of weekly wage-earners. Any blow to trade, anything that weakened our credit, that checked private enterprise or hindered the adventure of capital would react upon the workers and menace their livelihood. He thought they could trust the Labour leaders to recognise this, and to keep their wild men from playing the wrecking game. He, the speaker, had great faith in the sobering effect of responsibility. He had experienced it himself.

The Value of Co-operation.

He agreed that the agricultural interests of this country lost much by non-co-operation. He had seen the value of co-operation between the P. and O. and its associated companies—in comparing costs, in the purchase of all their requirements, and in helping one another with tonnage. This spirit of co-operation was not confined to the administration; it extended to the whole of their staff afloat and ashore.

The Staff.

Men entered the service of the P. and O. with a life's career before them, and the Board endeavoured to set up conditions in which good service could be rendered in acceptable surroundings. Their engineer staff had now, in most ships, airy, quiet quarters on the boat deck. The engineers and their assistants had readily adapted themselves to the change from coal to oil fuel, and he would like to express his thanks to the White Star Company for allowing some of them to gain experience of oil furnaces in the Majestic and Olympic, and for the instruction and assistance derived from the engineers of the White Star vessels. He desired to say a word in acknowledgment of the good and efficient service of their sea staff, pursers, stewards, boatswains, carpenters, and quartermasters. Many of their Indian deck and engine room serangs and ratings had spent their lives in the P. and O. He inquired recently of one old man on the Maloja how long he had served in P. and O. ships. He replied with a salaam, "Sahib, chalis chae burras." (Sir, forty-six years). No more loyal and efficient service was given by any body of men afloat than by the commanders and officers of the P. and O. Company.

Sea Training.

Some little time before he retired, the late Sir Thomas Sutherland had instituted a scheme of training, mainly at the company's expense, of carefully selected cadets on board the Worcester, with a view to their entry into the P. and O. as junior officers. Under the training of the late Commander, Sir David Wilson Barker, and his successor, Captain M. B. Sayer, many young cadets had passed from the Worcester to sea-training, and were now serving on the P. and O. as navigating officers.

Thanks to the Company's Staff.

He felt sure they, the stockholders, would wish to be associated in the expression of grateful thanks of the directors to their agents and staff ashore, and to their captains and officers of all departments afloat. He was constantly meeting their men, and it was a source of great pleasure to him to work with them. Loyalty, ability, devotion, and integrity characterised the service which it was the good fortune of the P. and O. directors to enjoy at the hands of their staff, at home, afloat, or serving far removed at the other ends of the earth.

Conference Agreements and Market Stability.

He had been accused lately by a correspondent of *The Times* of being a Protectionist because of the Associated Companies' participation in conference agreements, the charge being that these agreements led to monopolistic rates of freight. This idea was without foundation. Shipowners, shippers, merchants, and consignees all recognised that the effect of these agreements was to free rates from violent fluctuations upwards or downwards with a minimum of disturbance and of uncertainty in the marketing of valuable merchandise.

A contrary example was afforded by the effect of a sudden and great reduction in Atlantic freights shortly after the war, which made earlier consignments at the higher rates unprofitable and led to repudiations of bargains as the sudden drop in freights had spoiled the market. It was claimed by all concerned for these agreements that they produced stability of rates, regulation of tonnage and sailings, and punctuality of delivery. In an entirely irregular freight market they would have cargoes delayed by the waiting of

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half-filled ships, parcels coming in too great abundance or not at all, and alternate glut and starvation of supplies.

The Accounts: Need of Reticence.

There were doubtless, he continued, some people outside that room who would like more information of the company's affairs than was given by the report and accounts and by his speech. To say much more might lead to their being urged to increase the dividend and to a depletion of their resources, which would be a departure from the conservative policy which had guided the P. and O. Company throughout its existence.

The precepts of Balzac still hold the field in business. He would quote five of them :—

"Don't beat the bush for others."

"Trust no one farther than you can see him."

"Never say what you do, but always do what you say."

"Keep your hands to yourself and the same with your purse."

"Sell your jewels for more than they cost you."

The first four they could carry out, but at the present time there was a difficulty about the fifth. Their jewels were space in ships, comfortable passenger accommodation, good food—well cooked, well served—courteous attendance, good speed and safety at sea, with regularity in departures and arrivals. It was not by any means easy at the present time to dispose of these jewels for more than they cost.

In fact, they might still be said, to a great extent, to be living on their losses.

Prospective.

There was no greater fallacy than that shipowners had made money out of the war. Those who sold their ships and retired probably did well. They had to consider their great organisation and their staff, and to carry on until things improved. But they were not downhearted; they had a magnificent fleet and were adding to it; the P. and O., he said, stands high with shippers and passengers, and no endeavour would be wanting to retain the public goodwill. Come good times or bad, he confidently hoped the company would continue to give satisfaction to the public in its services to India, the Far East, and Australia.

A Personal Note.

He would, before sitting down, ask them to allow him to make a brief personal statement. A shipping paper had lately displayed some concern as to the fate of the P. and O. Company when—as the writer kindly put it—"Lord Inchcape, in the fullness of years, comes to relinquish his position." He, the writer, had surely forgotten that the indispensable man had not yet been born. He appeared to imagine that the manipulation of two million tons of shipping was kept entirely in his, the speaker's, hands, and suggested that he curbed initiative on the part of his staff. This writer showed complete ignorance of the facts. He welcomed, from high and low, suggestions for forwarding the company's interests, and none of his colleagues would endorse the idea that his disposition was to curb initiative. It was, he was afraid, more frequently the other way round, and that his own suggestions were often sat upon. They worked together as a band of brothers, but that he required to be consulted before any step of high importance was taken he regarded as his duty to them, the stockholders. He was recently in India, with their approval, for six months; he spent a good deal of time on board P. and O. steamers, but the business of their great organisation went on whether he was there or whether he was not. If they, the shareholders, passed the accounts to-day and confirmed what the Board had done during the year he would slip away in a P. and O. next month to the Sunny South, to play deck quoits and sometimes to recline in a deck chair, cheered by the consolation that Protection is dead and Free Trade survives. The Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Sir Walter R. Lawrence, Bart., G.C.I.E., G.C.V.O., C.B., seconded the resolution, which was carried unanimously.

The dividends recommended were approved, and the retiring directors, Mr. H. N. Gladstone and the Right Hon. Lord Kilbracken, G.C.B., were re-elected.

Tribute to Management.

Sir Charles Stewart-Wilson proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, management, and staff for their continued successful management of the company's business.

Sir Fortescue Flannery, seconding, said he would like to express on behalf of the shareholders their strong hope that the anticipations of the writer referred to would be many, many years before they were realised. They were accustomed to two good things at the meeting of the P. and O. Company: one, the declaration of the dividend; the other, the speech from the chair. Some of them might not entirely agree with everything his lordship had said, but they all thought the lucidity, comprehensiveness, and impartiality of the address most illuminating and of the greatest possible public advantage. He would add one word. The report showed in the strongest manner not only the company's stability, but its enterprise. Three and a-quarter millions of funds available for insurance losses was an immense item of stability; they had heard that no less than nine ships of different sizes and character were in process of building. The existing ships had gone from coal to oil, and they saw that the good old P. and O. Company, with all its conservatism—he hoped Lord Inchcape would excuse him for that word—was as enterprising as any company in existence. In welcoming Lord Inchcape back again from public labours in India, which had been so successful, the shareholders were proud to belong to the company.

The motion was carried unanimously, and acknowledged by the Chairman.

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Egyptian Salt and Soda.

The report of the Egyptian Salt and Soda Co. for the year ended August 31 states that the quantity of seed treated by the two crushing mills, although not quite as large as in the preceding year, was considerable. The products derived therefrom and disposed of have been slightly in excess of the sales during the previous year, but the margin of profit has been very small and has continued to diminish from week to week. Trials at Moharrem Bey Works undertaken a few months ago have, from the technical point of view, been successful in every respect. Competition in the soda trade continued to be very keen during the whole year, and the profits realised from this branch have only been very small. The gross profit was £E52,088, less general expenses £E6,190, and interest on debentures £E2,542, leaving a net profit of £E43,356. The directors have set aside for depreciation of various factories £E9,817, provision for eventualities £E1,400, leaving £E32,138, plus £E48,809 brought in, making £E80,947. The directors propose a dividend representing 7½ per cent. on the share capital, carrying forward £E44,546.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

The net profit of the Imperial Bank of Persia for the year ended September 20 amounted to £91,408, while £33,721 was brought forward. Of the total of £125,129, £5,484 is due to the Persian Government, and the interim dividend absorbed £15,000. After transferring £30,000 to reserve and £10,000 to bank premises account, a final dividend is proposed at the rate of 6s. per share, making 9s. per £6 10s. share for the year, free of tax. The balance of £34,644 is carried forward.

British India Steam.

The accounts of the British India Steam Navigation Company for the year ended September 30 show a profit, after allowing for depreciation on steamers, of £187,253. To this is added £24,402 brought in. Debenture stock interest takes £74,574, the preference dividend £35,000, and the year's dividend on the ordinary shares will require £76,576. The balance of £25,504 is carried forward. There was no improvement in freights during the year, but considerable reductions, which were made in working expenses, have improved the results. Further reductions in working expenses have been effected since closing these accounts, and these, with a recent improvement in freights, give prospect of better results in the current year.

Cunard Line

MEDITERRANEAN & NEAR EAST

REGULAR FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR ALGIERS MALTA PATRAS PIRAEUS SYRA VOLO SALONICA :-: SMYRNA CONSTANTINOPLE :-: BOURGAS VARNA CONSTANZA AND SULINA also from——LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO GIBRALTAR GENOA LEGHORN NAPLES PALERMO MESSINA CATANIA BRINDISI BARI ANCONA VENICE TRIESTE FIUME GRAVOSA

FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER SWANSEA ANTWERP AND ROTTERDAM TO GREEK LEVANT AND BLACK SEA PORTS.

ALSO FREIGHT SAILINGS FROM

LIVERPOOL MANCHESTER :-: GLASGOW AND SOUTH WALES PORTS TO HAVRE ST. MALO AND DIEPPE

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THE NEAR EAST.

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NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The Greek Crisis.

The Revolutionary Committee in Greece has finally identified itself with the Republican movement, and King George II. has been compelled to withdraw from the country. Recent events appear to have followed no logical sequence, but the position has been gradually dominated by the Republican leaders. The first reports of the results of the General Election on December 16 gave the Republican Party a minority of one-third of the Chamber, and there seemed to be no reason for any drastic measures before the Venezelists had had time to decide upon their course of action. A strong appeal had gone out to M. Venizelos to return to Greece, in order that he might rescue the country out of its political chaos, and a brief space at least had to be allowed him to decide whether he would this time accept the invitation. At this point, however, the military and naval leaders of the Republican movement took the bit between their teeth. They imposed their will on Colonel Plastiras, the head of the Revolutionary Committee, who, until then, had affected to be holding the balance even between the political parties, and he, in turn, imposed his will on the Cabinet. It was decided that King George II. must leave Greece, and within twenty-four hours he had left with Queen Elizabeth for Roumania. Now comes a report that each party is claiming a majority in the Chamber.

The Republican Indictment.

It is noticeable that the indictment of the Republican Party against the dynasty has reference almost exclusively to King Constantine's acts. Of the seven points of the manifesto only the last refers to King George, who is charged—on no evidence, it will be noted, and in direct contradiction of the assurance of the Greek Government to the contrary—with having "engineered the recent fratricidal movement." The maintenance of the dynasty, it is added, is a national stigma which should be blotted out, and "the officers of the Army and Navy have unanimously decided that the forfeiture of the Crown by this dynasty is a national necessity." The Government has not yielded immediately to this demand, but it considered that in the interests of a peaceful and unbiased debate on the constitutional question by the new Constituent Assembly it was desirable that the King should withdraw from the country until a definite decision has been reached. In what way the presence of the King, who has been a virtual prisoner in his Palace since his accession, could affect the debate in the Chamber was not stated; but it has to be inferred that his withdrawal was the only compromise that the Republicans would accept. The new Chamber is apparently to be a Constituent Assembly, in spite of the fact that it was elected with a considerable section of the people absent from the polls. If it should be called upon to decide the future status of Greece, only a miracle will prevent the delegates from yielding to the Republican pressure, which has already been successful with the Revolutionary Committee and with the Cabinet.

The National Will.

The Greeks have an unchallengeable right to make their choice between a republic and a monarchy, and no exception could be taken to the course now being adopted, if only it could be regarded as being based on realities. Everything, however, emphasises the factitious character of the movement. The harping on past history, the insistence that only a republican *régime* can restore Greece to the good books of the Allied Powers, the abstention of a large portion of the people from the election, the manifest weariness of the nation as a whole, and the attempt, in the face of official denials, to bolster up the cause by implicating the King in the recent insurrection—all these things give the success hitherto achieved by the republican movement a false ring. After the severe ordeal through which the country has passed, it is not unnatural that drastic changes should be favoured; but a change is not necessarily sound because it happens to be drastic, and it is almost certain to be unsound, if it is prompted by the passion of the moment and not by cool reasoning. Whatever course will hasten the return to "normalcy" in Greece will be welcomed in Great Britain, but the Greeks can hardly be surprised if the present methods of procedure arouse misgivings among

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those who are able to view the situation dispassionately.

Britain and Afghanistan.

It is unfortunate that during the short first term (three years) of the Anglo-Afghan Treaty, which was signed in November, 1921, relations should be strained between the two countries. The occasion is one that Russia is likely to make the most of, but there is no reason to suppose that Soviet influence in Afghanistan is any longer proportionate to Soviet aspirations in that direction. The trouble has arisen over the failure of the Afghan authorities to bring to justice the murderers of British subjects in India, after they have escaped and taken refuge in Afghanistan. Any allowance made for failure in a matter of this kind must be determined by general conditions. One effect of the 1921 Treaty, which was a genuine attempt on the part of Great Britain to further the cause of Afghan independence and progress, has been to encourage the border tribes in their spirit of lawlessness owing to the impression conveyed by the new order of things that Afghanistan is now a match for the British. This state of affairs is bound to become altogether intolerable, if flagrant crimes go unpunished. Hence, even if the Afghan authorities have done their best to find the murderers, their failure to arrest them is bound to be interpreted by the tribesmen as an encouragement to further excesses. Great Britain, therefore, must take the situation seriously, especially as the position in Afghanistan is by no means settled, owing to the unpopularity among his subjects of the Ameer's reforms. It is to be regretted that the Afghan Minister in Paris has committed the diplomatic solecism of attacking Great Britain in a Press interview. Many of his statements are without foundation, and, if they had to be regarded as representing the official Kabul view, could only confirm the British Government in the necessity for taking a firm line. More probably, however, they betray in the diplomatic sphere some of the national "wildness" which is hampering an enlightened Ameer in his efforts to lift his country out of its primitiveness and make it a modern State.

Conditions in Cyprus.

The prospect of a Labour Government in Great Britain has not been lost on the leaders of the movement in Cyprus for union with Greece. In any other circumstances it would hardly be expected that a Greek community overseas would choose this particular moment for urging that salvation—and economic salvation at that—is to be had only by close identification with the present state of affairs in Greece. Cyprus, in common with the rest of the world, is suffering from a universal stagnation of trade. There are, no doubt, certain remedial measures which, if introduced, might serve to ease the situation in the island, and on a good case being made out for them there must be much more likelihood of their being adopted by the present *régime* than by a Greek Cyprus, which would take years to find its feet. A telegram received from the Greek Press Bureau at Limassol states that the secessionist delegates who, after boycotting the Legislature, have now entered the Chamber, have again resorted to blocking tactics in order to press their political aspirations. If the condition of the island is as bad as is represented by the "unionists," it is clearly a time for constructive legislation and not for a purely destructive policy.

Extremists in Council.

The outstanding event of the week in Indian politics has been Lord Lytton's invitation to the Swaraj or Extremist group to form a Ministry in Bengal, and the definite but courteous refusal of their leader to take an active part in working the Dyarchy which they are pledged to bring to an end. It is not altogether easy to follow the criticisms which have been passed on Lord Lytton's action by some of our contemporaries. The Swaraj group does not form a majority of the Bengal Council, or even of the elected members, but it is numerically the strongest group, and the principle is now fairly established that a Governor must be guided by numerical strength. Presumably, the next offer will be made to the next largest group, and Bengal, like this country, may have to worry through a period of instability, with ample opposition but no dominant party in power, until some sort of coalition evolves. The evolution ought to be easier there than here, because the groups have less cohesion than our old-established parties, and if the process is found to be inconvenient, Bengal must console herself with the reflection that politically she is quite in the fashion of the moment.

Lord Reading on the Situation.

Even in India Bengal is not likely to have a monopoly of this political instability, though the reported results of the elections are still in many cases obscure, and particular interest attaches to what Lord Reading has been saying on the subject during his extended tour. From the extracts from his speeches which have been distributed by the India Office we gather that his attitude is one of cautious hopefulness. He recognises that there must be some awkwardness at first, but he trusts that the men who have in the past stood outside the Constitution will yield by degrees to the environment now that they have come inside, and will learn to appreciate the advantages of sober and steady work. Whatever the ultimate result, we are convinced that this is the right attitude at the present juncture. There is no room for what Indians call *zidd*, and trade unions call "victimisation." Many of the Extremists realise that they made a false start; not all of them are so bent on destruction as their published programmes suggest, and all concerned should make it as easy as possible for waverers to settle down comfortably as constitutional legislators.

Sir George Lloyd.

Nowadays a Triumph is not offered to the returning Proconsul, least of all in Christmas week, and Sir George Lloyd's arrival from Bombay will create little stir, but he brings with him a record of work for which India and the Empire should be profoundly grateful. Viewed from this distance, his governorship has been marked by a rare combination of vision and driving-power. Quick to see what was wanted, he was able also to get things done, or at least to set the wheels moving at high speed, and it is something for one man, working under acute financial stress, to have brought into sight a new Egypt as well as a new Bombay; but, apart from these spectacular developments, the Presidency bears the mark of his hand in nearly every department of its economic life, and, as a correspondent has pointed out in *The Times*, he is responsible, among other institutions, for the establishment of the Labour Bureau, which has so rapidly created a new era in our knowledge of the urban problems of India. It is pleasant to know that, while a section of politicians held aloof, Bombay as a whole, and the working classes in particular, gave him an exceptionally cordial farewell: we hope he will now enjoy a good holiday, and then come back to the Empire's work.

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THE WEEK AT HOME.

London, Saturday Morning.

Christmas.

The way in which the British people can, when occasion demands, throw off their worries, or, rather, see through the essential thinness of them, is quite remarkable: domestic, political, and European anxieties have all succumbed during the approach to Christmas to the eternally gay anxiety of buying the right kind of present.

For, without doubt, despite the illegal tightness of money, the holiday spirit is on the nation now; in no other spirit, indeed, could the appalling crush and jostling of the streets and shops be tolerated. To me it seems that there are this year far more people buying presents than ever London saw before. It is not only in the West End where these terrific crushes have to be encountered; much farther East, and even off the main streets, the crowds of tired but contented purchasers have to be penetrated. One thing that is more prevalent than in previous years is the number of street hawkers, who sell anything from toy balloons to the latest gadgets from Central Europe.

It is impossible to know what all these people are buying; especially one is ignorant of what the women make so many entrances into the different shops for. One suspects, particularly when one has to wait half an hour before getting served, that it is merely to get some new ideas. Many of them, however, come to town but once a year, and have therefore to be pardoned. The men, of course, never know what they want, but what they seem mostly to be receiving is Mah-Jongg and wireless sets, gramophone records, woollen scarves, bath salts, and Mr. Kipling's Scout-book.

The Weather.

Circumstances force me to write before Christmas Day, but to all appearances the weather has made up its mind to behave in the legendary, as opposed to the historical, way. Last Wednesday snow descended upon the confused and delighted shoppers in London, and since that day there have been heavy falls more or less all over the country, with the additional stimulus of extraordinarily invigorating winds. It is high time, of course, that such healthy weather should befall us, for the younger generation were beginning to doubt the story of wintry Christmas which the Victorians sedulously fostered.

Seasonable Benefits.

Very little work will be done anywhere next week; most people appear to have the choice of Monday or Thursday, in addition to Christmas and Boxing Day. But one of the most delightful prospects contained in the holiday arises from the non-appearance of newspapers on Tuesday and Wednesday. The joy of living becomes intoxicating when one feels thus absolutely cut off from the outside world: after the tenth mince-pie has been consumed, the importance even of, say, Lord Beaverbrook, may appear insignificant. And people will buy papers for the rest of the week only because they feel that they ought to know what has happened in the sporting world. There is something so admirable about the athletes, who even at this time will not indulge excessively, that we feel that at least we ought to read about their incredible exploits.

Political Matters.

Even in politics things have smoothed themselves down, so that we may enjoy our Christmas in tranquillity. Mr. Asquith has spoken on behalf of the Liberal Party as we knew he would: he will turn out the Government, which meets on January 15, at the earliest opportunity, and, of course, will have no truck with any other party. It was a tremendously fine speech, majestic and magisterial; but all that it really signifies is that the Liberals will relapse into sonorous somnolence. On their own jaded dogmas, by which they at present swear, they can have no grand future.

The scheme as it is being laid down by those who assume to know, is that, after the resignation of the Conservatives about the middle of January, the Labour Party will take office for a few months, after which the Conservatives and Liberals will combine to defeat them. Then, it is said, the Liberals will assume the reins until the Conservatives in their turn are ready to force another General Election. In short, whatever happens, we are in for a considerable period of "safe" legislation; and politics, apart from personalities, should become the dullest thing imaginable. All the population of Great Britain in turn ought next year at some time or another to be satisfied, but then, of course, what Carlyle said of them many years ago is infinitely truer now.

The Explosion of a Legend.

Probably the most interesting side-chat of the last Election concerned Mr. Lloyd George's alleged conversion to the principles of Protection. I alluded to it when it arose, and, as my readers know, was not averse from crediting it. But now, it seems, our doubts upon the ex-Premier's unswerving constancy to Free Trade were unjustified, for he published in the Press of Thursday a letter to an unnamed correspondent in which he said that the talk of his advocating Protection for this country was "a pure invention."

Apparently he was moved to write this letter because he met at the Liberal meeting of Tuesday members who objected to the circulation of the "falsehood." Thus we are indebted to this gathering of the Liberals not only for a statement of Liberal intentions, but for the white-washing of Mr. Lloyd George's character. To the historian it may well be that the second result was of greater importance to the country. But the end of the story is perhaps not yet.

An Anti-Labour Party.

Out in the wilderness, and with the awful shadow of a sovereign Labour Party upon them, the men of little faith are crying out for all parties other than Labour to unite. Famous lords are writing

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to the papers in this sense, and those journals whose habit it is to support whatever powers that be are forced to adopt the cry.

An anti-Labour Party is, of course, an absurdity, because no party can command respect whose very *raison d'être* consists of a negation.

Nevertheless, we shall, as the idle weeks roll by until the advent of Labour, hear more and more of this proposal. It is true that there is now nothing essential that divides Liberal from Conservative, but for many years that truth has obtained. Its realisation is not likely merely because Labour is coming into its own.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

The Government seems to be catching it pretty strongly for the measures which it has been adopting to stamp out the very serious outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Thousands of cattle and sheep and pigs have been slaughtered—a policy which many farmers condemn—and hunting has been completely stopped in Scotland and the North of England. Strangely enough, it is this last, and, of course, less serious, prohibition, which seems to have awakened to an appreciation of the situation a public which probably has never even heard of Jorrocks. Nobody appears to know how the outbreak originated, or when it may stop. But the farmers know, what the townsman has long since forgotten, that Nature is still in many ways our master.

London Traffic.

The traffic problem in London has been steadily growing worse, and soon anyone who really values time will become a pedestrian. It is not only on the main thoroughfares, the Strand, Oxford Street, Holborn, and so on, that the congestion has grown to appalling dimensions, but away in the back streets, where the traffic is chiefly commercial, the problem is seen to be, under present conditions, equally insoluble.

What conditions will be like, if nothing is done, during the forthcoming Imperial Exhibition, one can well imagine. Short of the construction of new roads, or new bridges, or subways, the drivers of the traffic themselves see no remedy. Perhaps this question is one in which the Labour Government may really be in its element.

The Reparations Inquiry.

There seems to be a general impression that definite good may come out of the investigations of the Reparations Commission when it meets early in January. Certainly, Great Britain, in choosing as its representatives such men as Mr. Montagu Norman and Sir Josiah Stamp to examine the internal position of Germany, and Mr. McKenna to examine the flight of German capital abroad would appear to be filled with hope.

But much of this optimism is quite official in its origin. To the unbiased onlooker it would seem difficult for Germany to pay much without regaining economic sovereignty over the Ruhr, and there is as yet no sign that M. Poincaré is prepared to grant this. Still, the representatives of this country are all admirably British men, and can certainly be relied upon to give the honestest view possible in the somewhat vague and uncertain circumstances.

Unfashionable Hymnology.

For many years now the more intelligent of our churchgoers have been trying to raise the appallingly low level of many of our hymns, but for the most part the attack has been made on musical and literary grounds. Now, however, the attack has been raised to the political plane, for the Education Committee of the Bath Council has just banned two very well-known hymns which appear to state the Divine attitude towards the distribution of this world's goods. One was about "the rich man in his castle," the other I have forgotten. But such doggerel could never have meant anything, even when it was sung, and it would need a reactionary indeed to proclaim that we shall be the poorer for its loss. If only other offences to the ear and the mind could be purged from our churches clergymen would have less financially to complain of, but, unless the plaintiffs can show political cause, there seems little hope of improvement!

Dr. Jowett.

The death of Dr. Jowett reminds one that the great age of Nonconformity has passed. One by one those names which were often on our parents' lips—Spurgeon, Hugh Price Hughes, and the rest—disappear; to the younger generation, indeed, they had already signified but little. Jowett, it seems, was a really great preacher, although I confess it is difficult to reconcile what in other matters might be called the purchase by America of a British commodity with the higher form of religion. But ours is a cynical age, and we do not reverence as perhaps we should the popular informers of opinion. There does not, at any rate, appear to be anyone gifted enough to step into Jowett's place.

A Song Recital.

At last, or at least in part, I found that easing grace in music of which I spoke a few weeks ago. It was at a song recital by Mr. Ingo Simon, given at the Wigmore Hall a day or two back. Here was a singer bestowing on us with unaffected nonchalance some superb melodies, mostly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; he sang for the sake of singing, yielding himself entirely to the discipline of line. Where such treatment as this was apt, he spun almost an hypnotic web: one could sit for long dreaming in such beauties as he discovered in Scarlatti's "Se tu della mia morte," and old French and German things like "Gardez-vous d'être sévère," "Eine Schön' Tageweis," and "Minnelied." In songs needing more colour and variety a finely cultured voice did not so well succeed.

ALTER EGO.

A CYPRUS MEMORIAL.

We have received the following telegram from the Press Bureau at Limassol, dated December 18:—"A rural meeting with black flags passed a resolution calling upon the Government to assist the population, whose condition is critical. Representatives from the towns, bank managers, and the Moslem moufti submitted a memorial asking for an Agricultural Bank. The lamentable political situation is manifested by the fact that those who entered the Chamber with the purpose of co-operating with the Government voted against the Estimates, declaring that no good can be achieved under the existing *régime*, and asked for a Constitution making Cyprus mistress in her own house.

According to reports from Waziristan the guilt in regard to the murder of Lieutenant H. R. F. Webster, who was killed by Mahsuds at Piaza, Waziristan, on July 6, has been fixed by a tribal Jirga (council) and a fine of Rs.12,000 (£800) has been imposed upon the Mahsud section concerned.

After hearing the Karari riot cases, in which two Moslem sects, the Shias and the Sunnis, fought each other, Mr. Yorke, the Sessions Judge at Allahabad, on December 17 sentenced three Shias to death and twenty-eight to transportation for life, and forty-six Sunnis to five years' rigorous imprisonment.

The reconstituted Palestine Advisory Council met for the first time in Jerusalem on December 14, and discussed and passed three Ordinances, one of which provides for the constitution and jurisdiction of Tribal Courts for the administration of tribal law in the Beersheba district.

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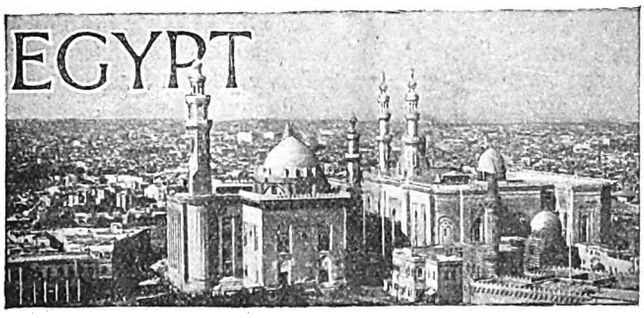
The Near and Middle East.

From Our Own Correspondents.



Cairo, December 13.

Election Liveliness.

The contrast between Egypt's long-drawn-out electoral campaign, which began on September 29 last, and certainly cannot end before the middle of February, and the suddenness of the British elections has been the subject of many editorials in the local Arabic Press. The Government has considered it necessary to issue a statement explaining that the delay in the elections has been due to the difficulties of carrying out the task with a staff to which the work is entirely novel, and that January 12 next—the date fixed for the final stage of the Lower Chamber elections—is the earliest possible date for polling. On the other hand, the Government declares that rumours recently current of the probability of a further postponement are quite unfounded. Another feature of the British elections to which the local Press has not failed to draw attention has been the organised hooliganism displayed in certain constituencies. This disgraceful behaviour has been contrasted with the absolute calm prevailing in Egypt, and the comment made that had there been in this country a tithe of the goings-on which are reported from England the British Press would have hastened to draw the conclusion that Egypt is not yet fitted for Parliamentary methods of government. It is true that nobody could accuse the electorate here of being unduly excited. The system of election by stages and the delays which it involves are not calculated to cause much popular effervescence. It seems probable that the present method of election will undergo drastic changes at the hands of the first Parliament which can devote time to the question, and it will not be surprising if the system now in force is thrown overboard and direct voting adopted. The existing plan has certainly not resulted, as it was expected to do, in producing elector-delegates who, by their superior education or civic qualities, overtop their fellows, and, with the rapid growth in this country of the party system, there is little prospect of this result being achieved at any future election. The elector-delegate system has, on the other hand, greatly facilitated the use of improper pressure. By reducing the number of voters in the decisive stage of the elections it has made it possible for one party or another to pledge all the secondary electors to vote in a particular way, a thing which would scarcely be feasible were the number of voters who will go to the poll on January 12 next thirty times as large as it actually will be. The present method results in dividing the electorate up into little groups, first into thirties, then into groups of six hundred—which is approximately the number of secondary electors in each constituency—while in the case of the elections for the Senate there is a third stage, groups of five secondary electors having to choose one of their number to be the final, or tertiary, elector, representing 150 original voters. How this system facilitates intimidation is shown by the fact that enthusiastic party supporters boast that in many constituencies the elections are for them already won, because a majority of the elector-delegates have sworn on the Koran to vote for the party's candidate, and no other.

The Liberal Constitutional Campaign.

The election liveliness referred to in the heading at the beginning of this letter consists only in oratorical outbursts, which so far as can be seen have very little effect. The Zaghloulists have been resting on their oars for some time past, partly because of the continued indisposition of their leader, partly for the reason that they consider the elections as good as won. The Liberal Constitutionals, on the other hand, are carrying on their belated campaign with great energy. At the weekly meeting held in the party's headquarters in Cairo tremendous attacks are launched against Zaghloul Pasha and his followers. The most sensational speech up to the present was delivered last Friday, by Mohammed Bey Aly, formerly treasurer of the Zaghloulist Wafd, now secretary of the Liberal Constitutional Party. Making use of the information obtained in his former position, especially when a member of the Zaghloulist delegation to London in 1920, Mohammed Bey revealed all sorts of secrets, not only concerning the Wafd's policy and its discussions with Lord Milner, but also in connection with the finances of the Party, and as regards Zaghloul Pasha's attitude to his supporters when their views did not coincide with his. The most startling assertion was that Zaghloul Pasha had proposed to Lord Milner that the British Government should depose the present occupant of the Throne and recognise Zaghloul Pasha as the chosen head of the Egyptian nation, and, presumably, as Regent. In return for this, Zaghloul Pasha would secure the acceptance, by Egypt, of Lord Milner's scheme. Much of the speech dealt with matters which in England would be considered a good deal too personal for election platform attacks, but in this country more latitude

***Under this heading appear weekly or at regular intervals communications from correspondents in Egypt, the Sudan, Roumania, Yugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria, Albania, Turkey, Palestine, Irak and Persia.**

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is customary, while it must be admitted that Zaghloul Pasha began this type of political offensive, and is merely now being repaid in his own coin, with, perhaps, a little added interest.

Viscount Allenby and the Sudan.

It is announced that the High Commissioner, accompanied by Viscountess Allenby, will visit the Sudan early in the New Year and will probably be away from Egypt for a month or six weeks. Details of the trip have not yet been settled, but it is sure to include some big game hunting. The local Press is already restive over the visit, and harks back to that of 1922, when Lord Allenby reassured Sudanese chiefs regarding the future status of their country. That declaration by the High Commissioner, although at the time it appeared to be a political blunder and even a departure from the undertaking in the Declaration to Egypt of February, 1922, that, pending negotiations between Great Britain and Egypt, the *status quo* regarding the Sudan should be maintained, was possibly, in its results, one of the happiest pieces of British policy. It brought matters to a head, the Egyptian Government came to a clearer understanding of the real situation, and the beneficial effect of getting rid of former misapprehensions was shown by the comparative facility with which difficult negotiations on various matters were successfully concluded last summer. It seems highly improbable that the High Commissioner will make any political pronouncement on this visit.

A Welcome Law.

The Egyptian Women's Union, with Madame Huda Sharawi at its head, has just scored its first big success, and a very notable victory it is, for the Council of Ministers on Wednesday approved a law making it illegal for boys of under 18 years, or girls of under 16 years, to contract marriages. The marrying off of young girls of twelve or thirteen, sometimes even younger, has long been a disgracefully frequent occurrence, doubly shameful when, as often occurred, the husbands were grown men. The whole credit for getting this new law passed rests with Madame Sharawi and her supporters, a very energetic and progressive band of ladies, who are not resting on their laurels, but are enthusiastically attacking a variety of other abuses.

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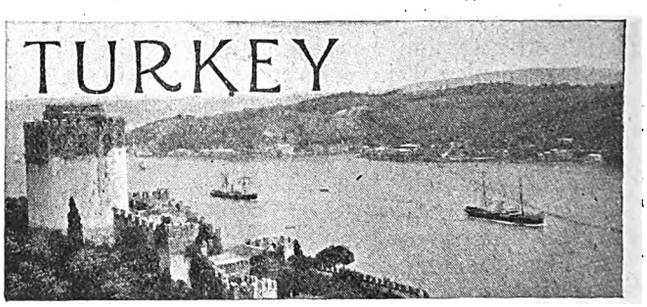
Egypt's Diplomats.

At last the diplomatic representatives in London, Paris, Rome, and Washington, who were appointed months ago, are to proceed abroad to take up their appointments. December 27 has been fixed for their departure, though in the case of Aziz Pasha Izzet, Minister to London, a further delay is likely, as Izzet Pasha is ill with influenza. A farewell banquet to the departing Ministers was given at the Continental-Savoy Hotel last Monday evening, and it had been expected that the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tewfik Pasha Rifaat, would make an interesting speech, in harmony with the occasion. Instead, he confined himself to the most fulsome flattery of the occupant of the Throne.

The Mails to Egypt.

It would be interesting to know why we cannot get Wednesday morning's London newspapers until the Thursday of the following week, although passengers by the Lloyd-Triestino service leave London at 11 a.m. on Wednesdays (five hours after the morning papers are on sale), and reach Cairo late on the following Monday night. The Lloyd-Triestino service brings us the previous Friday's, Saturday's, Monday's, and Tuesday's papers, while those of Wednesday and Thursday are brought by the P. and O. mail-boat, and are delivered in Cairo on the following Thursday morning. That there can be no real difficulty in sending Wednesday's papers by the Lloyd-Triestino service seems to be proved by the fact that they can be bought in the streets of Trieste before the steamship for Egypt sails. Perhaps the British Post Office will be able to arrange a plan by which the connection can be made.



Constantinople, December 13.

The Treason Trials.

The treason hunt to which I referred in my last letter is going on merrily. The Tribunal of independence has arrived, and yesterday it held its first public séance. The number of the accused has been increased by the arrest of Ekrem Bey, the Khalif's A.D.C.; Lutfi Fikri Bey, the head of the Constantinople Bar; and Beha Bey, the news editor of the *Tanin*, who, however, after public examination, has been set at liberty.

It appears quite clearly that the decision to erect this extraordinary tribunal here is by no means unanimously supported by Government circles in Angora. After its nomination, against which nobody in Angora found it politic to protest openly, differences of opinion concerning the extent of its powers were manifest in the Assembly. One party proposed to exclude from its competence the general questions of the external and internal security of the State, and from its powers that of pronouncing the death penalty. Such a limitation would have reduced the present *cause célèbre* to the level of a case of infraction of the Press laws. However, the opposing view—that the powers of the tribunal should be unlimited—gained the day by a very narrow majority, which refuses to be deprived of the exciting pursuit of a foreign spy-hunt.

The three editors were subjected to an interro-

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gatory as to the manner in which the news service of their papers is organised internally, and the channel by which the famous letter reached them. Throughout the series of question and answer the point that strikes the European most forcibly is that, with the possible exception of Hussein Djahid Bey, all the accused and the judges seem to regard it as an axiom that each paper has a policy—well and good—and its main obsession is to prevent the publication in its columns of any document or piece of news which may conceivably react to the detriment of that policy. Another interesting point of detail which came to light is the fact that apparently the sender of the copies to the Constantinople Press considerately allowed four days to elapse between the posting of the original to Angora from London on November 24 and the posting of the copies to Constantinople, which took place on November 28. As the authorities' contention is that the Press publication preceded the receipt of the originals in Angora, a very simple mathematical operation is required to establish the fact that the post from here to Angora takes at least four days. Why? Since the train does the journey in twenty-four hours.

Britain and Turkey.

The Turkish papers are evincing a great interest in the effect on British policy towards Turkey of the indecisive results of the General Election. Some of them seem to harbour in the back of their minds the suspicion that our General Election was specially staged by malign persons with the sole object of postponing the ratification of the Treaty of Lausanne, in the wild hope that the New Turkey would have collapsed in the interval and the necessity for ratification would have passed. These organs are now much disturbed by the announcement of the imminence of elections in Italy, also a British manœuvre.

Turkey and the World.

The *Ileri*, which commands admiration for the stout-hearted way it supports the Government through thick and thin, and for the ingenuity with which it marshals logical arguments to back up the most obvious of the Government's illogicalities, published the other day a leading article which completes the Turkish picture of the international conjuncture. After lumping together England and Italy as greedy prospective heirs waiting for Turkey's demise, the writer of the article sees in the recent preparations in Paris to be the first of the Great Powers to ratify the Treaty a sign that M. Poincaré is returning to the traditional French policy of passive acquiescence in all the convolutions of new Turkish policy. If this pleasant combination develops, and Foch, Weygand, and Gouraud are relegated to the background, the Turks may have the supreme satisfaction of clasping again to their bosoms their old friends Franklin-Bouillon and Berthe Gaulis.

The Plague.

The local event of importance is the appearance of the plague, which, to judge from the restrictions applied to shipping, is supposed to have come here from Barcelona. Rigorous regulations for the inoculation of all persons leaving Constantinople have been published, and for one or two days nobody was able to leave by land or sea. The politically-minded are of opinion that the object of these draconic regulations is to form a *cordon politique* rather than a *cordon sanitaire*, but, in any case, it is not absolutely efficacious in practice, for I happen to know that one man was thoughtfully provided, in preparation for his journey abroad, with two perfectly good certificates from the sanitary authorities. No. 1 stated that he had been duly subjected to the double inoculation necessary as a prophylactic against plague, and No. 2 stated that, owing to a chronic serious complaint, he cannot be inoculated without danger to life. I do not know which of them he used.

PRESS ON THE NEAR EAST.

Irak.

The *Round Table* of December contains an article upon "Great Britain and the 'Iraq: an Experiment in Anglo-Asiatic Relations." The writer divides his examination of the subject into different sections; he comments, for instance, upon "The Advisory Staff," praising them for the public security now obtaining in Irak; upon "Military Assistance," giving his view that the National Assembly will in the end be forced to solve the military problem by a mild form of conscription; upon "Mosul and the Turks"; upon "The Holy Cities and the Elections," and, finally, upon "What Great Britain Gains." On this last point the writer shows that not only will the large expenditure incurred during the war by the British Government on ports, railways, roads, bridges, and other permanent works be repaid by the Irak Government, but by fulfilling her pledges to Irak Great Britain will be taking the first open and decisive step in the evolution of new friendly relationships with Oriental countries.

Greece's Foreign Policy.

The Times of December 5 contains an article by its Athens correspondent on "Greece and Her Neighbours." He says that the foreign policy of the new Greece in the years of recovery and reconstruction must be different from the old. The policy which France appears to be adopting towards Greece can be carried out, owing to memories of the Franco-Turkish entente, only with great difficulty, but towards Great Britain Greece's feelings are still of friendship and confidence. Of Italy, however, he writes:—

> Relations with Italy are likely to offer some thorny problems. The Italian occupation of the Dodecanese and the Italian attitude on the Albanian frontier questions are two stumbling-blocks. Moreover, it will be a long time before the Greek people can forgive Italy's high-handed action at Corfu. Italian policy in the Balkans inspires considerable fear, which is strengthened by the belief that Italy does not miss an opportunity to cultivate the ill-feeling and dissension which may always be found, not only between the various Balkan

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countries, but also the factional and partisan differences within each of those countries. By some it is supposed that Italian policy is aimed at favouring the Royalists in Greece with the object of fomenting internal divisions in order to prevent Greece from presenting a united front in matters of foreign policy. Whether these fears and beliefs have any basis in fact it is impossible to say, but Greek public opinion is such that Italian diplomacy will for a long time to come be regarded with greater suspicion than even that of Turkey or Bulgaria.

Turning to Greece's neighbours, he says that two main obstacles at present stand in the way of close relations with Turkey—the questions of the exchange of populations and of the status of the Greek population of Constantinople and of the position of the Patriarchate there. However :—

> Many Greek politicians believe that the natural policy of Greece in the future should be one of *rapprochement* with Turkey, on the ground that the interests of these two countries are in many ways identical. These politicians, most of them representing groups opposed to the present Revolutionary *régime*, foresee the possibility of closer relations with Turkey than with any other Balkan State, and they even include this in their election programme.

The alliance with Yugo Slavia is still in force, and "will no doubt be renewed next spring." With Roumania she is "on terms of friendship almost approaching alliance." As to Bulgaria, her new *régime* has so far been regarded with much suspicion, but—

> There has lately been some evidence that Bulgaria is at last endeavouring to find a friendly basis for settlement of its outstanding questions with Greece, the principal of which is the Bulgarian outlet to the Ægean, promised by the Treaty of Neuilly. This was denied them at Lausanne. The Greeks are prepared to grant to Bulgaria at Dedeagatch the same facilities that have been granted to Yugo-Slavia at Salonika—namely, a free port, and it is probable that Sofia will eventually accept this arrangement. Certainly no Greek Government, present or future, will consent to a territorial corridor.

With Albania relations should become increasingly cordial :—

> Greece has discarded all pretence of imperialistic ambition since the Asia Minor catastrophe; the Albanians, therefore, need have little fear of Athens making an effort to extend its territory at the expense of Tirana.

Greece's Home Affairs,

The Times of December 19 views the events at Athens with concern. It doubts whether King George of the Hellenes will ever return to his capital, for his departure was in the nature of an expulsion. The elections, like the move to get rid of the King, were really the work of military men. Finally it says—upon the question whether Greece is to be a monarchy or a republic :—

> Clearly the Government, while observing certain outwardly constitutional forms and acting at the same time with great military precision, holds the decision in its own hands. To judge by its past conduct, it is hardly likely that it will decide in favour of a monarchy, or, at any rate, in favour of the return of any member of the dynasty of the late King Constantine. A great responsibility rests upon M. Venizelos, who persistently absents himself from Greece, but in present conditions wields there a powerful influence. What the people of Greece really think of the situation it is impossible to know exactly. The chief concern of Great Britain is that Greece should be at peace; but for the moment all is uncertain. There is no assurance as yet that the expulsion of the unhappy young King will not mean an intensification of the miserable strife of Greek factions, with consequences that may extend far beyond what has hitherto been known as the Kingdom of the Hellenes.

The *Manchester Guardian* appears to disapprove of the expulsion of the King on the ground that it came about, not as the result of a Parliamentary majority, but of an ultimatum delivered by military and naval officers. In short—

> The root-trouble in Greece is that the spirit of faction and of force is in the blood, and that the acceptance of the principles of orderly, constitutional government is superficial only. It is because M. Venizelos knows this and despairs of real reform that he has so long declined to return to Athens.

The *Morning Post* states that, short of seeing stability secured, foreigners have no concern whatever in the internal affairs of Greece :—

> The form of government for Greece is purely a matter for the Greeks, and, after the deplorable advice given to that country by Mr. Lloyd George, and the catastrophe which followed from its being taken, Englishmen are naturally reluctant to interfere in Hellenic affairs. All that we desire is a stable Government, which will permit the full resumption of trading relations between Greece and Great Britain. On general principles, tinkering with constitutions and forms of government does not make for peace in the Balkans, and we hope that the Greeks, in whatever experiments they may indulge, will always have the necessity of stability in their minds.

In an article called "The Travail of Greece" the *Westminster Gazette* says that the present position in Greece lacks every vestige of dignity. The situation, it affirms, must be dominated, and, too, by a civilian and not by a soldier. It advises all foreigners to remain neutral in the present crisis :—

> The country has now a chance of resuming a constitutional course, and, if left to herself, it is possible she may get through the necessary changes rapidly and easily. But in a situation which is marked by so much that is unpredictable, nothing can be more certain than that an attempt to insist on the retention of King George on the throne will lead to much misery. The shooting of her ex-Ministers is a precedent that may be remembered as a warning. No one with any sense of responsibility can wish that Greece should be set afire once more, and the Allies are sufficiently alive to the possibilities to stand aside. It is to be hoped that the neighbours of Greece also remain neutral, and their reward may be a definite advantage to their peoples, if a slight to their dynasties.

The Indo-European Telegraph Company has reduced the rate for Press telegrams from the United Kingdom, via the company's route for India, Burma, and Ceylon, to 4d. per word.

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INDIA AMONGST THE NATIONS OF TO-DAY.

"INDIA." By Sir Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I. (Nations of To-day). (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 15s.)

Sir Verney Lovett's long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service would have been no slight qualification for the task entrusted to him by Mr. Buchan of writing the "India" volume of his new series, "Nations of To-day," even if he did not also hold now a chair of Indian History at Oxford. He has produced a very useful work, which gives a careful outline of Indian history from the earliest times down to the "certification," only a few months ago, of the salt tax by Lord Reading over the head of the new Indian Legislature.

His survey of the Hindu period is so compressed that it perhaps hardly lays sufficient stress upon the tenacity of that religious and social system known as Hinduism, which steadily bore down Buddhism when the great apostle-Emperor Asoka had passed away, and has withstood to an extraordinary degree not only the violent onslaught of the Mohammedan conquerors, but the more subtle impact of Western civilisation under the British *raj*. The Hindu period reached its culminating point under the great Gupta dynasty, when the Brahminical reaction against Buddhism manifested itself in the definite hardening of the caste system, as well as in remarkable literary and artistic achievements. The memories of that "Golden Age of Hinduism" have been revived and magnified in our own days as the glorious title deeds of Indian *Swaraj*. One of Sir Verney's best chapters is that in which he describes the organisation and conditions of the Moghul Empire under Akbar and his immediate successors. To those days may still be traced back much of the administrative system, especially in regard to land revenue, which Sir Verney Lovett himself applied when he was working in the United Provinces, and his colleagues in the Indian Civil Service are applying to-day all over British India.

The greater part of this volume is, however, very properly devoted to the British period beginning with the battle of Plassey, which brought about the transformation of the East India Company from a mere trading corporation into the dominant political power in India, charged with the immense responsibility of government over scores of millions divided from their new rulers by race, religion, and a long inheritance of ancient customs. Then also there began to grow up in the British people, too, that sense of responsibility for the progress and welfare of a remote Dependency, which led from Lord North's Regulating Act of 1773 and Pitt's more famous Government of India Act of 1784 to the introduction of Western education and the admission of Indians into full intellectual partnership with their British rulers. The Mutiny gave a disastrous setback to all the best forces which had been working on both sides for closer association between the two races, and, though the formal transfer of direct authority from the East India Company to the Crown did not substantially alter the machinery of government, it made it more rigid. Sir Verney Lovett passes perhaps rather lightly over the growing estrangement between the Western-educated classes, who had been taught in our schools the value of British representative institutions, and an extremely conservative bureaucracy, though admittedly the most efficient that the world has ever seen—an estrangement which made rapid strides during the two decades that preceded the violent outbreak of anti-British feeling, of which Lord Curzon's Partition of Bengal in 1905 was the signal rather than the cause.

Our author has already written an instructive account of the Indian Nationalist movement, and he deals now just as fairly with the troublous period through which India has been passing of recent years. He was himself a member of the Committee appointed to investigate the nature and extent of criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movements, and he naturally defends, and with no little ability, the Rowlatt Acts which were the outcome of that Committee's recommendations, though they served as the starting-point for Gandhi's deplorable Non-Co-operation movement. He writes also very judiciously of the 1919 tragedy of the Punjab, and recalls the Duke of Connaught's moving reference to it two years later at the opening of the new Indian Legislatures, when he spoke of the "shadow of Amritsar lengthening over the face of India." In his last chapters, which are appropriately headed "The Passing of the Old Order" and "The New Order," he recognises that the fundamental changes wrought by the Government of India Act of 1919 must be regarded as the inevitable result of the world ferment of the Great War, as well as a generous acknowledgment by the British people of India's war services. But he sounds in his concluding sentences a grave note of warning when he points to the rapid loosening of "the cement which was binding together the complex elements of an enormous society," and to the added difficulties of the task of government.

Indian economics are treated in a separate section, based on a contribution by the late Sir William Meyer. It is largely statistical, and hardly conveys, we think, an adequate impression of the large and often decisive part which economic questions have played in the relations between England and India from the time of the first precarious settlements of adventurous British traders at Surat, Madras, and on the Hugli, down to the granting to-day of fiscal autonomy to a new India whose commerce and industry are already capable of entering into keen competition with our own.

VALENTINE CHIROL.

A MANUAL OF HINDU PHILOSOPHY.

"HINDU ETHICS." By John Mackenzie, M.A., Wilson College, Bombay. London: Oxford University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

This volume is one of a series which represents a sincere and sympathetic endeavour to investigate Indian beliefs in the scientific spirit. It is a happy sign of the times that the "Religious Quest of India" should be directed by prominent officials of the Young Men's Christian Association and the American Presbyterian Mission. Its author assumes an acquaintance in his readers with philosophic speculation which is uncommon in our pragmatic era; otherwise he would, perhaps, have explained that "Ethics" is derived from a Greek noun signifying "custom," and defined it as a branch of philosophy which treats of human character or conduct. There have long been two schools in Europe; both agree in considering happiness to be the chief aim, or "good," of mankind, but differ widely as to their standpoint. Hedonists hold, with Epicurus, that the ethical aim should be the individual's happiness, while the Utilitarian theory, systematised by Bentham and Mill, has in view the happiness of the community. Professor Mackenzie thinks rightly that Western ethics suffers from a certain degree of insularity, and that the field of investigations should embrace the speculations of Asiatic

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thinkers. He, therefore, traces the history of Hindu philosophy as revealed by the Vedas, or sacred books. The Rig Veda consists of Hymns in praise of the Nature-powers which were worshipped by the earliest Aryan immigrants. Ethical qualities find but little place in the Vedic Pantheon; but a tendency towards monotheism is faintly manifest, and we trace the conception of a natural order established by the gods, which should be preserved by correct worship and sacrifice. In course of time the influence of primitive religions made itself felt, and Hinduism adopted many beliefs which were current among the savages around them. The Atharva Veda has slight ethical significance. Personal profit, writes Professor Mackenzie:

comes first and last, and the gods are reduced to the level of mere instruments to be used for the attainment of this profit. The conception of the gods as free personal agents has almost disappeared, and in their place we have magical forces which the individual seeks to utilise in order to gain his own selfish ends. The priests, ever eager to attain complete ascendancy over the minds of the people, took the direction of these magical forces into their own hands; wrought them into a framework of Vedic thought, and established their own position in relation to the magical rites as agents without whose mediation the rites could have no efficacy. So, even more important than the charms and spells themselves are the Bráhmans who control them.

It is evident that society had settled down into castes, and that the proud "twice born" arrogated to themselves the privileges of divine descent. Liberality to Bráhmans ranks above honour to parents and hospitality. Among the virtues inculcated by the Atharva Veda Priestcraft acquired greater power from the Sutras, which were composed during the 6th century B.C. They convey in the form of aphorisms a multitude of injunctions tending to increase the authority of the Bráhmans. The system of education contemplated by the Sutras emphasised the illusive nature of mundane phenomena; its aim was self-perfection, and ethical conduct was not held to be obligatory for adepts who had reached that goal. The self-same dogma are apparent in the Upanishads, which prescribed a course of education still current as an ideal among orthodox Hindus. It embraces three stages—Vedic study in boyhood; ethical conduct in active life; prayer and contemplation in old-age. The germs of all Hindu philosophy are to be found in the Upanishads; and the six great schools which came into existence drew inspiration from their precepts. Chief amongst these was the Vedánta philosophy, expounded by Sankaráchárya, who flourished in Southern India during the ninth century of our era. His central doctrine is the identity of the human soul with Bráhman, who created and sustains the universe; and he showed how, through knowledge, it might be delivered from bondage to illusion, with a climax of attainment to perfect freedom.

Professor Mackenzie is optimistic with regard to the influence in Hindu Society of the present day exercised by the marvellous system of philosophy of ancient date. While he admits that Caste is an anachronism, and that it cannot serve as a model for the social reconstruction so necessary in our age of chaos, he renders full justice to its advantages. Where caste has been chiefly wrong, he thinks:—

has been in its fixing of men to a particular position of society from which there is no escape whatever may be their individual capacity. Where it has, perhaps, been strongest lies in its development of a sense of vocation, whatever the sphere in which the individual has found himself. The most attractive features in Hindu social life are to be found in the family affections, the mutual devotion of parents and children, in the respect for elders, and in the sense of the identity of the individual interests with those of the community. A people of who this can be said is not morally bankrupt; it has great reserves of moral wealth which may yet be turned to the service of the community at large.

Professor Mackenzie's work shows an acquaintance with the subtleties of Hindu philosophy which is seldom met with in Western Europe, and a degree of sympathy with alien modes of thought which is rarer still. F. H. S.

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ACCORDING TO PLAN.

"THE SECRET OF THE DESERT." By C. C. Turner. (London: Hurst and Blackett, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

If a novel is based on the end-all-but of the world, the reader will look for a little bit of Genesis and a lot more of Robinson Crusoe. To bring it up to date, there must be a cave reminiscent of the Valley of the Kings doing duty for the Ark (always remembering that no archæologist is now complete without a daughter) and wireless. For the rest, as the only fun in imagining the end-all-but of the world is the question of the survivors, you can start one party in Egypt and the other in Europe, supplying incidents according to fancy until they come together. The only possible surprise awaiting the reader is likely to be in regard to the point where it is decided to leave the new world to carry on by itself. In this book he certainly has that surprise, and puts it aside wondering whether the author wrote merely for the cinematograph, and left it open matter whether the film was to be shown from left to right, so to speak, as the book reads, or reversed.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

"Selected Papers on Anthropology, Travel, and Exploration." By Sir Richard Burton, K.C.M.G. Now edited with an Introduction and Occasional Notes by N. M. Penzer, M.A., F.R.G.S., F.G.S., etc. (London: A. M. Philpot, Ltd.)

"Alieu Souls." By Achmed Abdullah. (London: Hutchinson. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Labour in India." By Janet Harvey Kelman. (London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"A Palestine Notebook, 1918-1923." By C. R. Ashbee, M.A. (London: William Heinemann, Ltd. 12s. 6d. net.)

"Early Buddhist Monarchism, 600 B.C.-100 B.C." By Sukumar Dutt, M.A., B.L. (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Love and the Gypsy." By Konrad Bercovici. (London: Eveleigh, Nash and Grayson, Ltd. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Servant of Sahibs." A book to be read aloud. By Rassul Galwan. Introduction by Sir Francis Younghusband. (Cambridge: W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd. 9s. net.)

"The Cambridge Mediæval History." Planned by J. B. Bury, M.A. Edited by J. R. Tanner, Litt.D., C. W. Previté-Orton, M.A., and Z. N. Brooke, M.A. Volume IV. The Eastern Roman Empire (717-1453). (Cambridge: University Press. 50s. net.)

"Memories of Travel." By Sir Thomas Graham Jackson, Bart., R.A. (Cambridge: University Press. 10s. 6d. net.)

"Vasavadatta." Being a translation of an anonymous Sanskrit drama, Svapanavasavadatta, attributed to Bhasa. By V. S. Sukthankar. (London: Humphrey Milford. 6s. net.)

"The New Industrial Era." By Sir Charles W. Macara, Bart. (Manchester: Sherratt and Hughes.)

The death is announced from Malta of the Chief Justice there, Sir Michaelangelo Refalo, at the age of 47. He was Professor of Law at Malta University, Crown Advocate, Chief Justice, and Vice-President of the last Council of Government.

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PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

TO-DAY.

December 27 (New Style).
December 14 (Old Style).
Gumada I. 18, 1342 A.H. of the Moslem Calendar.
Tibet 19, 5684 of the Jewish Calendar.

Lord and Lady Brownlow last week left England for Egypt and the Near East.

The Hon. Lionel Holland has arranged to leave England shortly to spend the winter in India.

Lord Waring, who left England recently for Egypt, will return to London at the end of January.

Colonel Ion Antonesco, Military Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London for Rome on leave last week.

M. Grégoire Michaesco, Commercial Attaché at the Roumanian Legation, left London last week for Bucharest on leave.

Mr. Arthur Hungerford Pollen sailed last Friday from Marseilles for India, and will not return until the beginning of April.

Lord Goschen has appointed Lieut.-Colonel F. C. C. Balfour, C.I.E., M.C., Sudan Political Service, to be his Military Secretary.

The India Office announces that Mr. E. Conran Smith, I.C.S., will continue as Private Secretary to the Governor of Madras on Lord Goschen's assumption of office.

Sir Alfred and Lady Mond left London last week to spend a few days in Paris before sailing from Marseilles on December 28 to visit the Viceroy of India and the Countess of Reading.

Mme. Titulesco, the wife of the Roumanian Minister, arrived at 50, Grosvenor Street, Mayfair, on December 17, from Bournemouth. His Excellency returned to London from Paris last Saturday.

M. and Mme. Gennadius are giving up 14, De Vere Gardens, the lease of which has expired, and have purchased Whitegates, East Molesey, near Hampton Court, which will be their future address.

M. Petroff Tchomakoff, First Secretary at the Bulgarian Legation, is remaining in Bulgaria during the Christmas recess, and will resume his duties at the Legation during the first week in January.

Princess Antoine Bibesco spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Asquith at The Wharf, Sutton Courtney. Early in the New Year she will join Prince Antoine Bibesco, Roumanian Minister to Washington, in Paris before returning to America.

The marriage took place in London on December 19 of Lieutenant-Colonel Ian Onslow Dennistoun, M.V.O., Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre, formerly Grenadier Guards, and Almina Countess of Carnarvon, widow of the late Earl, who died in Cairo eight months ago.

A luncheon was given at the Hotel Cecil last Friday to mark the occasion of the retirement of Mr. Charles Gill after thirty-four years as London manager of the *Pioneer Press* and *Civil and Military Gazette* of India. Mr. J. P. Collins was in the chair, and in a very interesting speech traced the history of the *Pioneer*, and referred to the many distinguished people who had been connected with it, in particular to Sir George Allen and to Sir George Chesney.

Lord and Lady Allenby and their party will leave Cairo on January 7 for the Sudan. They will proceed by river and rail to Atbara, and from there by car to Kassala to inspect the Gash Delta railway works. They will then go to Gedaref, Wad Medani, and Sennar to see the work on the Makwar Dam. After this the itinerary will include a journey by rail to Kosti, by steamer to the Bahr el Ghazal Province, where Lau will be visited by car before the party re-embarks at Shambe for the return journey to Khartoum. The High Commissioner expects to return to Cairo at the end of February.

Subhi Khadra Effendi has been appointed an A.D.C. to the Emir Abdullah.

The first Egyptian Minister to Italy, Zevar Pasha, landed at Brindisi on December 16.

Mr. D. E. F. C. Binyon, of Westminster School, has been presented with the Public School Gold Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

Messrs. Robinson, Fisher, and Harding sold at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's Square, last Thursday and Friday, water-colour drawings, pictures, decorative furniture, and various objects of art, the property of M. Joannes Gennadius, who for many years represented Greece at the Court of St. James's.

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THE NEAR EAST.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1923.

THE YEAR 1923.

I.—The Near East.

No brief formula can be applied as a label to 1923 in regard to events in the Near and Middle East. It is the year of the Lausanne Treaty, and as such constitutes a landmark in history; yet the optimism that a review of the period may engender in one direction can be counterbalanced by misgivings in another. It is difficult, however, to resist the conclusion that there has been some progress towards a permanent improvement in Near Eastern conditions. In the first place, the Treaty of Lausanne, as finally ratified, represents a settlement which is not intolerable to either side. That in itself is no small achievement in its bearing on the world's peace, and it is in international relations in the Balkans rather than to the individual countries that we must look for signs of progress during the year now coming to an end. Feeling between the different nations is in many cases better, in none is it worse, than it was a year ago. As a result of the drastic exchange of populations effected between Greece and Turkey, relations between these countries may almost be said to be non-existent. On both sides, however, there is the unexpressed conviction that when they come to be renewed it must be on a better footing than existed before. Within the past four months a bone of contention between Yugoslavia and Greece has been removed by the granting to the former of access to the harbour of Salonika in a free zone for a period of ninety-nine years. Yugoslav suspicion of Bulgaria dies hard. It was prepared to accept M. Stambolisky on condition that he made common cause with Yugoslavia against the Macedonians. When Stambolisky fell, the old mistrust of the Bulgarians fired up, and in spite of formal conventions settling a number of points outstanding between the two Governments, recent utterances of the Yugoslav Minister for Foreign Affairs show that so long as the Macedonian question remains unsettled there is little chance of cordial relations being established between Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Roumania, on the other hand, has found little difficulty in accepting Bulgarian overtures for the restoration of harmony and good will. For Albania the preoccupations of her powerful neighbours, following on the outspoken championship that she secured from the League of Nations, have brought about more established conditions on her frontiers, and she may reasonably count on freedom from international complications when the work of marking her boundaries has been completed.

It is in regard to its domestic affairs that each country in the Near East has little cause to be satisfied with the achievements of 1923. The Turks with their new-won independence will consider themselves the exception. Mustapha Kemal Pasha has ruled in Angora for over two years, and the proclamation of a republic on October 29 made no difference in the administration of the country. Neither the people nor the Government, however, have had time to settle down under the new conditions, and it would not be fair to judge Turkey by the record in regard to domestic affairs of the past twelve months. Angora and Constantinople do not yet see eye to eye, and so far the former has evolved no other policy than that of the heavy hand for an admittedly difficult situation. Unless more statesmanlike methods are adopted, there will be neither peace nor progress in Turkey, and the fault will be entirely her own.

For Greece the year has, indeed, been a black one. The settlement with Turkey may prove a blessing in disguise, but for the Greeks at the time it was gall and bitterness. January saw the Greek army strongly entrenched on the Maritza, and at one moment a renewal of war with Turkey seemed imminent over the deadlock on the subject of reparations. A way out was provided by M. Venizelos, who offered the Turks in the place of monetary payment a piece of territory on the west bank of the Maritza, including Karagatch. Throughout the year the problem of providing for the refugees from Asia Minor and Thrace has taxed Greek resources to the utmost, as well as imposed a heavy strain on foreign philanthropy. Only late in the day has the position been eased by the decision of the Council of the League of Nations to raise an international loan for the purpose of settling the refugees on the land. Towards the end of August, almost within a month of the signing of the Lausanne Treaty, General Tellini, Italian representative on the Albanian Frontier Delimitation Commission, was murdered on Greek territory, and the cup of Greece's humiliation was again filled. In the domain of domestic politics Greece has continued to plough the sand. The Revolutionary Committee refused to get on or to get out. It tried to shift responsibility on to M. Zaimis, while retaining authority in its own hands, but the veteran politician refused to be a party to a manœuvre intended to placate, while hoodwinking, the Allied Powers. Ultimately a section of the army attempted to remove the Committee and its nominee Government. The effort failed completely. General Metaxas, the hope of the Royalist Party, made the false move of abandoning constitutional methods for recourse to arms, but fell between two stools and is now in exile. The Republican Party, which until then had hardly reached the stage of being taken seriously, plucked up courage, and, under the personal leadership of the military and naval commanders-in-chief, demanded the formation of a Greek republic. It has so far carried the day that, after the General Election on December 16, the Government has required King George II. to leave the country until the constitutional status of Greece has been formally determined.

In Roumania the year 1923 has been singularly free from incident, but it would be rash to argue from that circumstance a maximum of happiness for the country. The history of the twelve months has been dominated by the firm rule of M. Bratianu, who on March 20 secured in the Chamber a majority of 225 votes to five for his Constitution Reform Bill. The Government has set itself the task of placing the finances of the country on a sound footing by means of a definite policy which may ultimately achieve its end, but is in the meantime the reverse of popular.

Although the closing days of the year find him in failing health, M. Pashitch, the veteran Serb

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statesman, has continued to prove himself politically indispensable to his country. He has governed since the March elections with a following in the Skupshtina amounting to little more than one-third of the total number of seats. His most formidable opponent, M. Raditch, leader of the Croatian Party, has played into his hands first by refusing to attend the Chamber, and secondly by leaving Croatia to take refuge in England. Foreign affairs have figured on the Yugoslav stage more prominently than domestic matters, the birth of an heir to the Throne being in the latter sphere the most important event. Negotiations with Italy over the vexed question of Fiume have passed through various phases, and the official announcement that an agreement had at last been reached is believed to have been delayed by the illness of the Yugoslav Prime Minister. The Government has also to its credit the conclusion of the agreement with Greece over the Salonika Free Zone and of several conventions with Bulgaria regulating a number of outstanding questions between the two countries.

Internally the year has been a stormy one for Bulgaria. The opening months found M. Stambolisky, the Prime Minister, seemingly in an impregnable position. He had three years of office behind him, during which period he had done much to rehabilitate Bulgaria in the eyes of the Allied Powers, and had deserved well of his country by securing a reduction in the amount of reparations to be paid by Bulgaria from £90,000,000 to £22,500,000, of which only £3,500,000 were to be paid within the next ten years. In April a General Election gave his Agrarian Party 212 seats out of 247 in the Sobranye. On June 9 a military *coup d'état* overthrew his Government, and M. Stambolisky was killed in the fighting that took place between the opposing parties. He had incurred the hatred of the bourgeois parties by his domestic legislation, and had alarmed the Macedonians by his apparent willingness to sacrifice their aspirations in the interest of peace with Yugoslavia. The new Government, under M. Zankoff, devoted its attention to strengthening its position in the country by bringing about an *entente* of the bourgeois political groups, which successfully carried the elections on December 1. Its authority, however, was challenged, abroad by Yugoslavia, and in Bulgaria by the Communists, who, under Russian prompting, started a series of risings in the country in the middle of September. The plot failed, and the Zankoff Government has been able to disarm Yugoslav suspicions of its loyalty to its treaty obligations. It has still a difficult row to hoe, and its future depends on its ability to keep the Democratic *entente* in being and to win the approval or the tolerance of the Agrarians.

There remains the Macedonian question—a constant source of strife for Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, an ever-present menace to the peace of Europe. The Lausanne Conference and the League of Nations have chosen to ignore it. Yugoslavia hoped to persuade Bulgaria under M. Stambolisky to deal with the problem *more Balkanico*, but peace for the Peninsula will never be found by such means. In the interests of the Macedonians themselves it can only be hoped that they will bide their time until circumstances favour a peaceful solution that will at least be tolerable to all concerned.

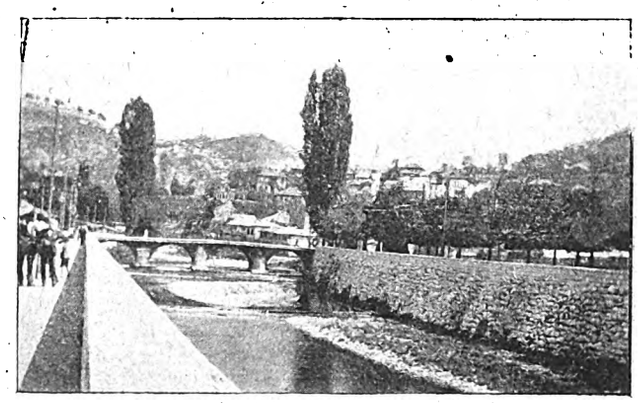
El Mokattam has announced the formation of a new political party called the Party for the Liberation of the Sudan and Egypt. Its name, says *The Times*, indicates its objects. It is stated that the new party has secured the public support and funds necessary for starting a newspaper to be called *Sudan-Egypt*.

OLD PLACES OF THE SLAVS.—II.

By W. E. D. ALLEN.

In the morning we took the long road to Banjaluka, which, as far as Krupa, follows the valley of the Una—a broad, swift, shallow, rock-strewn stream, running between mountain-sides covered with dwarf oak and beech. At Krupa, where the road crosses the Una, one of those uneasy plank bridges, which are everywhere in Bosnia, had collapsed to the extent of one-half of its breadth, and the entire population had taken holiday to watch four leisurely Serbs prising out rusty iron nails. We were told that we might wait two hours, which meant a long six, until the bridge was repaired, or go round a distance of 40 kilometres, whereupon our two dauntless Croats, so to speak, taking the bridge by the planks, turned us out of the car and gingerly piloted it over the surviving portion of the structure, to the great admiration of the men of Krupa.

From Krupa to Banjaluka the country is uninteresting, an agricultural region—maize-fields or sparse downs, where goats and sheep are met in small flocks. A very hot drive and uneventful—apart from the usual stampeding of horses and



SERAJEVO—THE MILIASKA.

upsetting of light country carts which invariably occurs a dozen times a day. The peasant generally takes it all with surprising good nature, but the traveller would do well to beware of trouble in the event of running over a sheep-dog. The killing of these beasts is sometimes unavoidable as three or four on a narrow mountain road will rush out at the car, which they seem to regard as some peculiar mammoth perpetually contemplating the destruction of sheep.

Banjaluka lies at the end of a great dusty plain and at the head of the valley of the Vrbas. It is the second town of Bosnia, and with Serajevo and Travnik replaced under the Turkish *régime* the old Bosnian centres of Jaice and Brebir. Its site, like that of Serajevo, was obviously selected for military reasons as commanding the roads from Hungary and Croatia into Turkey. It possesses forty-five mosques, but is in itself an unattractive place, upon which lies heavily the stamp of Slav provincialism. Near by is a large Trappist monastery, formed by monks who came from the Rhineland in the last century.

After Ostrosacs Castle in the morning, to arrive at the monastery in the evening strikes again that strange note of mediævalism. The monks are everywhere—a brotherhood respected by Christians and Moslems alike for their great piety, their scientific farming, and their incomparable beer.

Here in Banjaluka was the centre of the last stand of feudalism less than ninety years ago, when Hussain Agha Berberli, "Zmai Bosanski"—the "Dragon of Bosnia," headed the Moslem land-

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owners in a rising against the "European" reforms of the "Ghaiur Sultan," Mahmud II. It is curious that the dramatic career of this last upholder of feudalism has not aroused any of that interest which is associated with the name of the notorious but comparatively prosaic "Lion of Janina" immortalised by Byron and Jokai.

Forty odd miles separate Banjaluka from Jaice—the ancient capital of the Bosnian kings. Jaice, with its battered citadel perched above the town, its dank black catacombs and ancient church, which holds the pawky bones of the last weakling King Stefan Tomasevitch—flayed by the Turks and accursed of all Bosnians—its shambling streets of crumbling hovels, and the marvel of its white, rushing falls, might be some lost city out of one of those magic fairy tales which Celtic and Semitic men were wont to weave in the Dark Ages, and of which we sophisticated of the Age of Light have lost the fashion. Here you might think to find sprawling and wheezing within the catacombs a fat ogre of repulsion, half dwarf, half frog; and a lorn princess sighing upon the castle walls; and some river god beneath the falls. The road to Jaice runs through the sparkling, shallow, silver, rock-strewn, laughing valley of the Vrbas. We saw the Vrbas in the early morning before the sun had climbed over the mountain walls which hold it all along—here a rushing torrent between grim cliffs of reddish rock which the road is tunnelled through; here wider and slower with deep woods of oak and beech and birch running down to drink it; and here for a few hundred yards broad and still with lushy meadows before low cliffs on either bank. Goats and sheep were browsing there, and lads with their great white wolfish sheep dogs were already astir; and once we heard the gentle notes of a pipe and saw in the grass below three boys on their haunches round a new-made fire, the red of their flower-pot fezes and the gay stitchings of their jerkins a rich gleam of colour dancing in the green and grey about. The piping voice of Pan—and here the brown boy-god himself might be in last refuge, scowling out with angry eyes from behind some neighbouring oak, sickening with the smell of our car's petrol.

Jaice is a strange relic almost untouched since the fifteenth century by the hand of man; for the Turks made their capital in Bosna-Serai (Serajevo in the Serb) or Travnik, and all the history of Jaice for six hundred years has been a few Turkish and Hungarian sieges. The skilled archæologist might find a rich treasure-ground in the old castle and the catacombs, which the natives will tell you were digged—and they were evidently used—by the heretical Bogumils, though they are certainly centuries older than the date when those perfervid precursors of the Reformation—and, indeed, of Communism—disturbed the alcoholic ease of the lords of feudal Slavdom.

Further, there is a tolerable hotel in Jaice, while the small brown bear and different kinds of deer and lesser game in the surrounding forests, and the packed rivers of the Vrbas and Pliva, with the neighbouring lakes, might afford good sport to the cruder sort of man.

Beyond Jaice, as you turn south-east across the bridge over the Vrbas, you may take a rocky path the descent of which brings you level with the falls where the Pliva River, in a torrent sixty feet across, drops a sheer hundred into the Vrbas—a thunderous column of white water on which the sun flashes a thousand glistening slits of colour. All about the brown and green masses of the forest trees, and above to one side, the flimsy water-wheel where sits our afore-mentioned unenterprising Muslim, and behind, in the distance, the battered ramparts, the ancient steeple and its rival minarets, while dumped around, like so many beehives, the white-thatched hovels of the common living folk.

A mile away a large quarry and a works of some kind recall most gruesomely the twentieth century. The road leads on for many miles through mountainous wooded country, beautiful enough though the mind has been spoiled by the road to Jaice. We come at last in the early afternoon to Travnik, the later seat of the Valis of Bosnia, when they were scared away from Bosna-Serai by the obstreperous Janissaries.

Travnik is a shabby tumbling-place of white-washed hovels and an old grey citadel, ringed with wooded hills—a shoddy museum—of the drab remains of officialdom departed of the Imperial Ottoman. There is a large Moslem ecclesiastical

MOSTAR.

college fronted with coloured mosaics glittering in the dusty sun—very conservative and cool; and there is the konak of forgotten Valis having the air of departed meretricious pomp and wealth, in carved entrances leading to cool twilit courtyards, fronted with façades of chipped mosaic, and crumbling painted balconies; and an extensive Mussulman cemetery of stone-turbaned pillars, which give a grotesque effect in the blue night as of the portly ghosts of many worthy Kadis and Kaimakhams come together in muttering, wheezing protest against the evil days which have brought the ghiaur with his wires on posts and his lines of iron laid along the ground.

The country between Travnik and Serajevo is undulating rather than hilly—a land thickly populated, of many small villages of white thatched cottages, of brown fields and low green orchards, and much to and fro along the roads of carts and sheep and goats and pack-horses.

Through this pleasant agricultural country we came towards the evening to the white houses and sparkling minarets and surly grey antique Vauban forts of Serajevo; piled up against a great blue line of hills, and lying at the end of a wide dusty plain—which holds at an inconvenient distance from the city the racecourse and the railway-station.

(To be continued.)

Mr. G. R. Sainsbury was killed in an aeroplane accident at Mosul on December 15. Leading Aircraftsman Sainsbury, who served in the Royal Air Force during the war, was drafted to Mesopotamia for flying duty twelve months ago.

Lieut.-General Sir Charles Harington, lately General Officer Commanding-in-chief the Allied forces of occupation in Turkey, was admitted to the honorary freedom and livery of the Goldsmiths' Company on December 14 in recognition of his distinguished services to the British Empire.

The funeral took place at Kingston last Thursday of Mr. Thomas Drylands, of 62, Shortlands Road, Kingston, who was one of the last of the Indian Mutiny veterans. Mr. Dryland was 89 years of age. He served in India for thirteen years with the 7th Hussars, and took part in the relief of Lucknow.

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HEBREW IN PALESTINE.

By CANON H. DANBY, D.D.

On December 17 of last year there died in Jerusalem Eliezer Ben Yehudah. A brief paragraph recording the fact was published in *The Times*, but that short obituary notice was hardly of a scale to indicate the remarkable work which the man had achieved in the course of an ordinary span of life. History has known a few cases of a language suddenly popularised through the stimulus of revived nationalist sentiments after a century or two of national forgetfulness and decay, during which time the language has been superseded amongst the educated classes by the language of a more highly-cultured neighbour, and allowed to survive only as the despised *patois* of the lower, uneducated classes. Welsh and Irish are cases which at once come to the mind. But history has never before known a case of a language, disused for well-nigh two thousand years, coming again to life and recovering again the status of a people's mother-tongue. This, as is now fairly well known, is what has happened to the language of the Old Testament, and the human instrument responsible was Eliezer Ben Yehudah. In the course of a working career of forty years Ben Yehudah raised the Hebrew language from the positon it had held since late Maccabean times—a position in many respects similar to that held by Latin in the intellectual life of the Middle Ages and in the Roman Church of to-day—to that of a live language in the fullest sense, a language having its own literature and Press, its own atmosphere, its own idioms, mannerisms and curiosities, and a language claimed as a mother-tongue—the language in which a man thinks and expresses his every-day ideas and wants—by ninety-six per cent. of the Jewish people of Palestine.

In the course of their twenty centuries and more of wandering, the Jews, ever in this respect the most complaisant and adaptable of races, had readily assimilated the languages of whatever country consented to shelter them for a time; at this time of day there can scarcely be a single civilised language in the world which is not spoken by Jews somewhere or other. Owing to a longer sojourn than usual in and around German-speaking regions, Yiddish (a 17th-century Low-German dialect written in Hebrew characters) became the habitual speech of East-European Jewry, the largest single block of the Jews; and so far as the Jews could be said to have a language peculiarly their own, this was Yiddish, the language of Whitechapel and New York. When, therefore, from 1492 (the year of the expulsion from Spain) to the present time, the Jewish return to Palestine set in with gradually increasing volume, the Jews brought with them whatever was the language of their last place of sojourn. At first, Spaniolish (Judaeo-Spanish) and Arabic, the languages of the Mediterranean Jews, predominated, and are still largely used by many of the aged people belonging to the oldest Palestinian Jewish families; from the 17th to the 19th centuries, when Eastern Europe was the immediate source of the majority of the newcomers, Yiddish gradually assumed a leading position, and Yiddish became the prevalent language of the Orthodox Jews of the Jewish Holy Cities—Jerusalem, Safed, Tiberias, and Hebron. Zionism brought in more cultured Jews from Eastern Europe, who had largely shed Yiddish in favour of Russian, and Russian, equally with Yiddish, became the common language of the earlier Jewish Colonies in Palestine. As a result of the planting, in the principal centres of the "Alliance Israelite Universelle" schools, French also, at an early stage, struck deep roots among the educated and progressive Jews. Add to these languages Persian, Turkish, Polish, Czech, English—and one hesitates to say how many others—and we have a Babel with which few such limited areas as Palestine could compete. At the same time, the Hebrew language, according to some thirteen varied pronunciations, was confined to family prayers and the Synagogue, but one or two people were found who could speak it in cases of emergency, when a common medium was required between, say, a Polish and a Persian Jew; but they used it with just as much skill and readiness as an Englishman who had learnt and forgotten Latin would use Latin to converse with an educated German.

Then came Ben Yehudah, a Jew hailing originally from Russia, with an early education eminently pious and orthodox, and a later education eminently the reverse. He had been fired by accounts of the Bulgarian rise to independence, and he saw a vision of his own people rising to a like independence. To realise this vision he saw—and this was long years before Herzl and Political Zionism, and "Ahad ha-Am" and Spiritual Zionism—that the essential antecedent conditions to Jewish freedom and recognised Jewish nationality were a body of Jews living in Palestine, and, as the only possible hallmark of their common stock, speaking a common language, and—ridiculous as it seemed to everybody in those days—that language Hebrew. These ideals we now take for granted as the stock-in-trade of the keen Jew, a stock-in-trade which he occasionally uses for his own use, though more often for foreign consumption. But in the year 1880 they were most unsubstantial commodities. Palestine was a place for pious Jews to die in, and for energetic Jews to get out of, and Hebrew was a language for prayers to be gabbled in, and for a few high-brow Jews to write in; but for the emancipated Jews of the time both Palestine and Hebrew were slightly sentimental absurdities; America and emancipation were the order of the day. At the other extreme, but equally unpromising and infinitely more antagonistic, were the Orthodox Jews of Palestine, for whom Hebrew was a holy language, confined to holy books and holy occasions; to use it for everyday matters was to defile it. Ben Yehudah had thus two forces arrayed against him: the pious Palestinian Orthodox who regarded his schemes with horror, and the European Jew who regarded them with amusement; and the latter attitude was infinitely the harder to fight against. But Ben Yehudah had sufficient confidence in the possibility of his vision to risk all for it. Long before philanthropic societies had come into being to smoothe the way for the Jew minded to return to Palestine, he found himself in Jerusalem, without any resources, without any friends, without any definite scheme of action, and with an organised community around him which could be relied upon to oppose bitterly any action he might attempt.

It would occupy too much space to give details of the years that followed. He obtained scantily paid work as a teacher and as an assistant in a small weekly paper. But there existed no activity or interest which could help him or which he, at that stage, could utilise. In time he won to himself a small handful of sympathisers; a small group gathered together with the brave object of speaking Hebrew. Ben Yehudah himself aimed at using the language on any and every occasion when he held communication with a fellow-Jew. He soon started to publish a paper of his own, at first weekly, and in the end daily, in which to propound his views and in which to write a new kind of Hebrew which, though it

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was still the Hebrew of the Old Testament, was ever being twisted and supplemented by neologisms and adaptations intended to approximate it to modern daily use. He had married just before coming out to Palestine, and he inspired his wife with his own ideals. Tradition has it that he refused to speak to her in anything but Hebrew, even before she knew a word of the language. They had children, and the father included them also in the sacrifice, and a somewhat scared circle of friends saw the first children nursed in Hebrew since the Destruction of Jerusalem; these were the first to use Hebrew in the most literal sense as their "mother-tongue" from among the existing generation of Jews in Palestine, whereas now, if we are to believe the last census returns, nineteen Jews out of every twenty regard it as their mother-tongue. By his newspapers, by his own example, by his family life, by societies growing gradually greater and more numerous, by the founding of small kindergarten schools in the Jewish colonies (where his doctrines found most sympathetic acceptance), by his pertinacity and by his sheer cantankerousness, he gained over family after family. Even in more orthodox circles the *tabu* of sanctity was removed from Hebrew, and it came into more frequent use in private and in public. The fame of Ben Yehudah spread to the Jews in exile, and Palestinian Jewry began to imitate the Jews abroad and take a pride in this prophet to whom, at first, they had meted out the treatment traditional in such cases. The supreme struggle came a short time before the war, when the German *Hilfsverein* (a German Jewish society for the promotion of education in Palestine) sought to make the German language the medium of instruction in all their schools. The teachers in Palestine stood solid behind Ben Yehudah and his growing band of stalwarts; they left the service of the *Hilfsverein*, and organised a purely Hebrew system of education. This system was found in existence by the Zionist Commission after the British occupation, and has been ever since heavily subsidised by the World Zionist Organisation.

But something more was called for than personal persuasion and incessant public propaganda in order to revive the long-dead language. And here we get what is really the most remarkable side in Ben Yehudah. By nature and instinct he was a public character and a fighter; he had had no training as a scholar in the strict sense. But to fit the Hebrew language for present-day writing and speech it was essential to develop it to precisely the same extent that thought and human needs and human knowledge had developed in the two thousand years which had intervened since Hebrew was last used. Such a development—a pseudo-development, it is true—might have come about by "esperantoising" the language, by superimposing upon a thin Hebrew core a thick coating of European words and phraseology. This would have been comparatively easy, and was, and is still, occasionally done by Jewish writers to a limited extent. But the result could never have been "Hebrew." The only legitimate course was to hasten the growth of Hebrew out of its own "roots" (in both senses). Therefore, by sheer force of will, Ben Yehudah made himself a philologist, a scholar, and a lexicographer. He must first pile up all the available resources which Hebrew already possessed, and search for long-forgotten words and phrases which might meet present-day needs. Hebrew had never ceased to be written; from Old Testament times to the present day there have always been writers and commentators who have used the language. All this huge literature must be scanned line by line, and the results tabulated with all the drudgery that goes to the making of a dictionary. Hebrew was closely akin to Arabic; the two languages have a large number of roots in common. Therefore, when Hebrew itself failed to provide a necessary word, Arabic could legitimately be drawn upon to supply the need. The same applied also to the dead Semitic languages, Aramaic, Syriac, and Assyrian. When, and only when, these provided no help, was it desirable to coin new words. Ben Yehudah developed a *flair* for the invention of such new words, but these were, almost always, legitimate derivatives built up strictly in accordance with the morphology of Hebrew.

The results of such labours became immediately accessible to the Hebrew-speaking populace by means of Ben Yehudah's newspapers. But at the same time he devised for himself the scheme of a vast lexicon to contain the whole of the Hebrew vocabulary, ancient, mediaeval, and modern. After his work as public advocate of Hebrew as a spoken language had ended in so complete a victory, his latter years were devoted to the publishing of this dictionary. Five volumes were printed before his death, and the rest, another five volumes of dictionary and two of introductory matter, were left almost complete in manuscript.

Before he died he was witness of the final victory of his labours—the recognition of Hebrew as one of the official languages of Palestine, and the insertion in the Mandate of a clause protecting the rights of the language.

According to a Reuter message from Lucknow, Lord Peel, Secretary of State for India, has sanctioned the conversion of the Court of the Judicial Commissioner of Oudh into a Chief Court.

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Saturday Morning.

The Fate of the "Chester" Concession.

The report from Angora of the annulment of the "Chester" concession was so fully in accordance with expectations here that it excited not a ripple of interest, for it had long been realised that there was not the slightest prospect of carrying out anything approaching the grandiose scheme embraced in that term. Subsequent news from America showed, however, that we are not to be allowed easily to forget the scheme. The report of the annulment of the concession is denied, but it is stated that the Ottoman-American Development Company is not undertaking the construction of the projected Samsun-Sivas Railway, owing to the time-limit not being extended, and that this part of the concession is to be undertaken by a London company. A further statement to the effect that the whole of the concession might pass to the British company if adequate capital is not forthcoming in America throws an interesting light on the position. The fact is, as emphasised in these columns, that the "Chester" concession belongs to an unusual period when there was an inadequate appreciation of what the future held forth for the post-war Turkey. Unfortunately, it is only too evident that the Angora authorities still have their heads in the clouds, and until they come down to earth it is extremely improbable that they will find capitalists in this country any more willing than they are in America to assist in the development of the country.

Roumanian Trade Restrictions.

That excessive trade restrictions can have an exceedingly injurious effect is evidently in process of realisation in Roumania, judging by the description given by our Bucharest Correspondent of the business before the Supreme Economic Commission at its meeting last month. The agenda can be not inaptly summarised as being the consideration of the advisability of permitting the complete freedom of commerce The decisions arrived at by the Commission were such as gave rise to the view that the Government had definitely changed its policy, but the issuing of a decree with regard to cereals, permitting their free exports but at the same time imposing prohibitive taxes, throws considerable doubt on the outlook. It may be noted in this connection that a cable has been received by Steaua Romana (British), Limited, stating that a decree has been signed establishing the liberty of the oil trade in Roumania. I need not remind my readers how seriously the country's chief industry has suffered as a result of the vexatious restrictions that have been enforced. The message, it may be pointed out, leaves a good deal to be understood, and one can only trust that it means what it appears to do *prima facie*. Our Correspondent refers to a proposal of the Commission to protect the interests of the home market as regards petroleum products by the export taxes imposed. Any step of that kind would go far to nullify the value of free export, but as no reference is made to anything of the kind in the cable in question it may be hoped that wiser counsels have prevailed.

Imperial Bank of Persia.

At the meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia the chairman, Sir Hugh Barnes, was able to point to another successful year, the figures of the balance-sheet showing an increase of business. The bank opened two new branches in Persia during the past year, and Sir Hugh mentioned that the bank has been granted permission from the Government of India to open branches in that country instead of acting through agents. A considerable part of the speech was devoted to a review of the political and economic situation in Persia. Sir Hugh said that, so far as they could ascertain, the American Financial Adviser and his staff had made considerable progress during the past year. Expenditure had been cut down and brought under stricter control, and all the sources of revenue had been explored. "It will be interesting," he added, "to see whether Dr. Millspaugh is able to balance his Budget for the coming year. I have no doubt he will ultimately be able to do so if he is given adequate support and time to permit of the development of his reforms."

The Egyptian Crop.

Our Cairo Correspondent devoted considerable attention last week to the position of cotton growing in Egypt. The crop of the present season is officially estimated at 5,844,000 kantars, the yield per feddan being 3.68 kantars. While this yield is higher than the average for the past five years, it is stated that the increase is believed to be due to the higher proportion of Ashmouni to Sakellarides, and the statistics seem to bear out the view that the yield per feddan is continuing to decline. As cotton is Egypt's staple crop, the position must naturally occasion considerable anxiety, and it is satisfactory to know that the fullest investigations are being made into the causes of the decline in production.

COMMENTATOR.

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Commerce and Industry.

(Reports from Our Own Correspondents.)

ROUMANIA.

Bucharest, December 14.

A New Economic Regime.

A meeting of the Superior Economic Commission was held on November 20, at which M. V. Bratianu, M. Tancred Constantinescu, Minister of Industry, and General Vaitoianu, Minister of Communications, were present. The meeting was of the greatest importance, as the agenda included the questions of the complete liberty of commerce and the suspension of the law against speculation; freedom in regard to the export of cereals, including wheat; the protection of sugar factories; the position with regard to cattle not exported; flour stocks and the export prohibition; the freedom of export of petroleum and its derivatives; and, finally, the paper question.

It was proposed that the suppression of the law against speculation should be complete, but not definitive—that is to say, that if the freedom of commerce degenerated into abuses provoking public discontent the law should be automatically re-applied. (It will be remembered that this law raised violent protests from the Chambers of Commerce and merchants all over the country at the time of its promulgation.) With regard to the free export of cereals and petroleum products, it was proposed to protect the interest of the home market by the export taxes imposed. The sugar problem appears to have been the most embarrassing. It was a question of protecting the home factories against the import of cheaper sugar, but it was also proposed to allow the export of about 1,000 wagons of Roumanian sugar.

When the above proposals were published great hopes were raised by some organs of the Press that they indicated a fundamental change in the policy of the Liberal Government, which would give to industry and trade free scope for development. Since then, however, the Council of Ministers has passed a decree freeing the export of cereals, including wheat and rye and certain of their derivatives, but imposing at the same time export taxes which are said to be practically prohibitive, so that the so-called freedom is little more than nominal, and the situation remains much as it was before. The following are the figures of the export taxes in lei per wagon (the sterling equivalents being given in brackets):—Wheat, 25,000 (£35); rye, 20,000 (£28); bran, 4,000 (£5 11s. 6d.); lucerne seed, 100,000 (£140); sunflower seed, 30,000 (£42); sunflower seed oil, 80,000 (£112); sunflower seed oilcake, 7,000 (£9 15s. 9d.); wheat flour, 35,000 (£49). The tax on wheat flour is to be applied to stocks of some ten thousand wagons at present available from last year's harvest, while for all further stocks the tax will be 30,000 lei per wagon.

After the publication of the above decree one of the independent daily papers published an interview with M. Mihalache, the leader of the Peasants' Party, in which he severely criticises the Government and accuses them of giving with the one hand and taking away with the other, so that it is difficult to have faith in their sincerity. Another strong criticism of the Government's policy in general was recently published in a pamphlet called "The Collaboration of Foreign Capital," by M. Trancu-Iasi, former Minister of Labour and Social Welfare in the Averescu Cabinet. M. Trancu-Iasi is considered an authority on social economic matters. He begins by pointing out the dangerous tendency which is becoming noticeable as regards the exportation of capital (*i.e.*, its investment abroad, either in shares or real property) rather than the export of manufactured products. In summing up he insists upon the following five points:—A change of mentality on the part of the authorities; more sincerity and less inconsequence in their actions; the stability of laws; the modification of the commercial code in regard to limited companies and the composition of their boards of administration (this refers to the regulation that the majority must be Roumanian citizens); advantages to be afforded to foreign capital, such as exemption from direct taxation; and the modification of the economic system generally.

Imports and Exports.

In a recent number of the *Plutus* an official table was published of the imports to and exports from Roumania during the year 1922 as compared with those for 1921. The total figures show a decrease in imports from 612,000 tons in 1921 to 500,000 tons in 1922, but an increase in value from 11,709 million lei in 1921 to 11,799 million lei in 1922. The total export figures for 1922 are 3,880,000 tons, as against 2,600,000 tons in 1921, representing a value in lei of 12,163 millions in 1922, and 8,130 millions in 1921. It must, of course, be remembered, however, that in 1922 the value of the lei on foreign markets was much less than during the previous year.

Anglo-Egyptian Oilfields Output—Gemsah—Week ended December 14, 8 tons (last week, 9 tons). Hurghada, 2,525 tons (last week, 2,631 tons).

The directors of the Ionian Bank recommend a final dividend of 3s. per share, with a bonus of 1s. per share, both free of tax, making 7 per cent. for the year.

The Delhi Umballa Kalka Railway Company has declared an interim dividend of 6 per cent., together with a bonus of 1 per cent., on the Ordinary stock, payable, less tax, on January 28.

The Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company has declared an interim dividend for the three months ended September 30 of 5s. per share, payable, free of tax, on January 15.

The Greek Government have placed a contract with Messrs. J. S. White and Co., Ltd., of Cowes, for the complete overhauling of the machinery of, and considerable structural alterations to, four Greek destroyers.

The Eastern Telegraph Company announces a dividend at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, less tax, on the Preference stock for the quarter ending December 31, and a third quarterly interim dividend of 2½ per cent. on the Ordinary stock, free of tax.

The Government of India have appointed a committee, consisting of Mr. P. H. Clutterbuck, Inspector-General of Forests, and Colonel G. H. Willis, Mint Master, Bombay, to investigate the management of the forests of India and Burma with a view to ascertaining whether it can be put on a commercial basis, and the extent to which the rules of the Financial Department prevent forest officers from working on such a basis.

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Shipping Intelligence.

EXORBITANT LANDING CHARGES AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Constantinople, December 11.

An interesting light has been thrown on the present conditions in the port of Constantinople by the publication in the Press of the discussions which have been proceeding between the Constantinople Chamber of Commerce and the Maritime Chamber of Foreign Steamship Companies concerning the question of landing charges. The exorbitant tariffs and the consequent reaction upon the trade of the port, particularly the transit trade, have roused the Ministry of National Economy to instruct the Chamber of Commerce to discuss with the steamship companies the possibility of reducing them. In the discussions that ensued it came to light that whereas in 1921—i.e., under the *régime* of the Allied Occupation, a vessel of 3,000 tons paid for port dues, lighthouse dues, sanitary dues, pilotage, etc., the equivalent of £32 7s., a similar steamer now pays the equivalent of £63 7s. Added to this, unloading, lightering, and storage, which are very costly, are rendered still more expensive by the confusion and delay in the innumerable controls, sanitary, customs, and police, which have been instituted. It is stated that on account of this state of affairs the transit trade is steadily deserting the port for other places like Port Said and the Piræus, where the convenience of traders is studied. The upshot of the discussions is that the steamship companies are prepared to reduce their charges as much as possible, if the authorities on their side will undertake to terminate or reduce disproportionately high fixed charges and to put an end to the present delay and confusion in the administration.

Another cause of complaint is the fact that lately the foreign business houses have been served with demands to pay a tax under the provisions of Law No. 223, entitled "Loi sur l'impot de transport militaire." The original law, which was promulgated in 1338 (1922), stipulates that the tax is payable for the year 1338 only, whereas the notices now served demand payment for 1339 (1923). In addition to this, paragraph 2 of the law lays down the manner in which the tax shall be assessed, i.e., a fixed and a proportional contribution, while paragraph 3 contradicts paragraph 2 and introduces a commission of four members which will fix the amount of tax payable by persons possessing "une fortune liquide ou mobilière." The anomalies to which this clause may give rise may be gauged when it is stated that one firm has worked out the figure of its assessed profits on the basis of the tax demand for £T20,000, which it has received, and discovers to its amazement that it is supposed to be making an annual profit of three and a-half millions. A further objection to the tax which nationals of the signatory Powers to the Lausanne Treaty consider of great importance is that its imposition in their view is a direct infringement of Article 12 of the Treaty, which enacts that "aucun emprunt forcé ou autre prelèvement exceptionnel sur la fortune" can be imposed upon them. It is to be hoped that the official representatives of the Powers concerned will carefully study this point and take the appropriate action.

FORTHCOMING SAILINGS.

The following are the sailings for the Near East and India, the ports of departure and closing dates for cargo being given in parentheses:—

Anchor Line.—S.s. Olympia for Bombay (Liverpool, January 8).

Anchor Brocklebank Line.—S.s. Magdapur for Calcutta (Birkenhead, January 10); s.s. Manaar for Port Said, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 12).

Bibby Line.—S.s. Lancashire for Port Said, Colombo, and Rangoon (Birkenhead, January 2).

British India Line.—S.s. Morvada for Bombay and Karachi (London, January 4); s.s. Merkara for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 5).

Clan Line.—S.s. Clan Sinclair for Bombay and Persian Gulf (Birkenhead, January 3).

Cunard Line.—S.s. Cypria for Malta, Patras, Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Odessa, Novorossisk, Poti, and Batoum (Swansea, January 15).

Ellerman "City" Line.—S.s. City of Norwich for Bombay (Birkenhead, January 12).

Ellerman Lines.—S.s. Gerano for Malta, Syra, Smyrna, and Constantinople (London, January 3).

Ellerman, Westcott, and Laurance Lines.—S.s. Egyptian for Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria (London, January 5).

Johnston Line.—S.s. Kenmore for Piræus, Syra, Volo, Salonika, Smyrna, Constantinople, Bourgas, Varna, Constantza, Sulina, Galatz, and Braila (Liverpool, January 26).

P. and O. Line.—S.s. Malwa for Bombay (London, January 11); s.s. Sardinia for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, January 24); s.s. Caledonia for Bombay (London. February 8); s.s. Nyanza for Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta (London, February 8)

TRACTORS IN ALGERIA.

It is estimated that about 600 tractors are in use in Algeria (says an American Consular report), the number being greatest in the eastern part of the country, probably on account of the high price of labour and of animal feed. Lack of supply of spare parts has been a great deterrent in sales of tractors, although French tractors, being near the source of supply, do not suffer so much from this handicap. The three outstanding requirements for the development of tractor farming in Algeria, as stated by the Government, are a lower price of gasoline or other fuel, perfection of construction of certain details in machines to withstand strain over dry and rough ground, and an increase in the number of competent operators. The subsidies granted by the Government to associations in buying farm machinery are also made applicable to purchases of tractors.

The traffic receipts of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways for the ten days ended November 30 amounted to £E14,627, making the total from April 1 £E205,053.

Reports from Belgrade show that there has been a record yield of plums this year (says the *Central European Observer*). In the last two weeks of September alone 9,000 tons of dried prunes were brought in from the provinces of Serbia and Bosnia. 1,500 tons of prunes and 160 tons of preserves have been already exported.

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Cotton and Cotton Goods.

LIVERPOOL REPORT.

Uncertain Tone in Futures.

Messrs. Reynolds and Gibson report as follows for the week ended December 19:—

Egyptian Futures.—The immediate effect of the American Bureau Report was to create a sharp upturn in values, in which the Egyptian market participated, fresh speculative buying on Wednesday evening, and at the reopening on Thursday, putting prices to the highest of the week—viz., 24.30d. for March. This advance has since proved unwarranted, and the market has gradually receded to lower levels. Trade support has again been disappointing, and there seems little possibility of any great activity developing in this quarter till the turn of the year. Spinners' takings for the last three weeks have been very heavy, about 42,000 bales going forward to the mills, bringing up the total since August 1 to 173,000 bales (including Sudans), against 135,000 bales for the same period last year. Continental takings are 56,000 bales in excess of last season, but America, who might reasonably have been expected to make up the deficiency of her own crop by heavier takings of outsiders, has been a disappointment, shipments to that country from Egypt being 46,000 bales down on the previous year's total for the same period. The crop continues to move freely, and roughly two-thirds of the generally anticipated yield (6 to 6½ million kantars) has now been marketed. Judging from the amount of cotton pointing towards this country, importers must have availed themselves freely of the opportunity presented by the wide difference ruling between our contract and Alexandria at the end of last month to bring cotton over to this side at an attractive basis, and unless the off-take improves some of this may be placed against January contracts. We have already mentioned the paucity of trade support; spinners appear to have sufficient stocks of the raw material in hand to keep out of the market for the time being, certainly, from the tone of the Manchester reports, they have latterly had little encouragement from the yarn department, which has ruled distinctly on the quiet side—a customary experience at this time of the year. We understand that there is an undercurrent of inquiry, which promises well, once values get established at a steady basis.

Egyptian Spot.—Following the issue of last Wednesday's American Bureau Report, a brighter tone developed on our market, particularly in futures, and prices were quickly pushed up over a penny per pound. Support by the trade proved to be extremely disappointing, however, and a relapse took place. The Manchester market appears to have been completely nonplussed by the recent fluctuations in the price of the raw material, and inquiry from that source has continued to be of a very meagre description throughout the week. As a result of this, prices have since shown a sagging tendency, and, except for one bright interval last Monday, when approximately 1,000 bales of Good to Fine Sakellaridis were purchased for export to the Continent, the session has been a very quiet one. The inquiry has failed to provide any fresh feature. Sakellaridis 50 to 100 "on" has been asked for, and a good style of Fully Good Fair can be purchased at 75 "on" to-day. The difference between Sakellaridis and Uppers has narrowed a further 60 points, and, as the Egyptian contract draws closer to the American contract, an added interest is being shown in this growth. Good Upper to-day is fetching anything from 50 to 100 "off" contracts. Rather more inquiry has been noticeable for re-cleaned Sakellaridis, and a little more business has been done in Sudans. The inquiry for White cotton has not been so pronounced this week. Manchester reports have made rather poor reading, and, generally speaking, no improvement is looked for before the New Year. A period of steadiness is badly needed just at present, as confidence in prices, during the past few weeks, has been badly shaken. C.i.f. business has ruled quiet. Forwardings to spinners for the week ending 14th inst. were returned as 13,600 bales. Estimated sales, 2,200 bales Egyptians and 350 Sudan. Quotations of Sakellaridis have been reduced 60 points, and Brown and Uppers are 30 points. F.G.F. Sakellaridis to-day 22.65d.

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EMPIRE COTTON GROWING CORPORATION.

The report of the Executive Committee of the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, submitted at the meeting of the Administrative Council held recently in London, states that in response to a request by the President of the Board of Trade, the Director has prepared for the President's consideration a detailed statement, showing how, in the opinion of the Corporation, cotton growing within the limits of the Empire might be extensively and comprehensively increased. The terms of this statement were carefully considered and approved by a sub-committee of the executive committee. At their last meeting the India sub-committee appointed certain of their members to consider the question of the steps that might be taken for bringing further under the immediate notice of spinners the merits of Indian cottons, and investigations are being made. It has further been suggested to the Corporation that it might be possible to have the likely varieties of cotton tested in spinning mills, and the results, if satisfactory, made generally known to spinners in order that their attention might be directed to the variety tested. It is felt that the conduct of the spinning tests presents some difficulty when carried out in a mill engaged on ordinary commercial work, and it is to be hoped that, in time, the British Cotton Industry Research Association may be able to equip themselves with the plant necessary to undertake such tests. The Corporation have appointed Mr. W. Roberts as their representative on the Indian Central Cotton Committee for a further period of one year.

CONDITION OF EGYPTIAN CROPS.

The bulletin of the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture gives the following particulars regarding crop conditions in November:—

Maize (Nîli).—Weather has been favourable to the ripening of the crop. The rain which fell at the end of October only very slightly affected the crop and delayed the harvest, which is now progressing and is expected to be general early in December. The yield is expected to be about normal.

Millet (Nîli).—Harvesting is almost general in early sown fields, and the yield is expected to be slightly above normal.

Rice (Sêfi).—Harvesting is in progress and soon will be completed. Owing to the plentiful water supply and favourable weather, the crop is a good one and the yield normal.

Rice (Nîli).—Harvesting is progressing, and the yield is expected to be slightly above normal.

Sugar Cane.—The weather was favourable and water supply sufficient. Slight attacks of stem-borer and mealy-bug were noticed in most provinces. The condition of the crop, however, is satisfactory. The yield is expected to be normal.

Bersîm.—The weather was favourable and water supply sufficient. Heavy rains at the end of October affected young plants in certain districts of Lower Egypt and necessitated some re-sowing, but warm weather in November helped the crop to recover. Sowing of late and permanent bersim is still being done. Slight attacks of cut-worm were reported from Beheira, Gharbiya, Qalyûbîya, Asyût, and Girga. Cotton worm has caused a certain amount of damage to the crop in some parts of Giza Province, necessitating re-sowing. The general condition of the crop is satisfactory.

Wheat, Barley, and Beans.—Owing to heavy rains in certain districts of Lower Egypt, sowing was delayed from five to ten days. It is now progressing under favourable weather and water supply conditions.

Lentils.—Sowing is being carried out under favourable conditions.

The Khedivial Mail Steamship and Graving Dock Company has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the year to June 30, 1923.

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Engineering Topics.

(By Our Engineering Representative.)

PUMPING INSTALLATIONS IN THE GEZIRA—(*continued*).

Air Supply and Ventilation.

An important matter is that of the supply of fresh air for the Diesel engines and ventilation of the engine room. The severe sand-storms to which the building is liable make it essential that it should be airtight, no openings being allowed, while even the ridges on the roof have to be sealed. The method of ventilation adopted was to instal on the east side of the building, the direction from which sand-storms are least likely to blow, two air filters, running from each of which are 25-in. diameter pipes leading to two fans, belt driven from shafting in the engine room. The fans discharge in direction parallel to the length of the buildings, thus ensuring the best circulation. The Diesel engines draw their air from the engine room. This arrangement maintains a very satisfactory temperature, even under the hottest sun conditions.

Suction Wells and Pipes.

Each main pump has its own suction pipe, 40 in. in diameter, constructed of steel, 184 ft. long. The suction wells are 16½ ft. across and of a depth nearly 10 ft. below lowest water level, with a concrete bottom and brickwork shaft, and of U shape, with a grid on the open side. They were built some 40 ft. from the river at lowest Nile, and the suction pipes having been put in, the river was dammed off and channels cut in its bed to allow the water to enter the wells, after which the dam was removed. To enable the 40 in. suction pipes, which were made of ⅜ in. steel plate to carry the weight of nearly 40 ft. of earth, they were specially strengthened by angle-iron rings, and were built on concrete piers, spaced 6 ft. apart, and carried down to a good sub-soil. Provision had to be made on these pipes for expansion and contraction, which was particularly pronounced while the trench was being kept open to allow tests to be made. This was provided for by fixing the pump end by bricking and grouting into the wall, the other end being free, while the bend in the suction well was supported on rolled steel joists, but not bolted, thus allowing for the necessary movement. In order to permit the fitting of the suction pipes to go forward without waiting for the pumps, and at the same time to avoid the use of a template pipe, the method adopted for coupling the pipes to the pumps was by means of expansion pipes. This will enable the pumps, if necessary, to be readily dismantled.

Discharge Pipes.

On the other side of the building, since the whole of the distance of the 40 in. discharge pipes to their junction with the rising main was in "cotton soil," which on becoming wet has been known to cause the collapse of plant and machinery built upon it, special precautions had to be taken to ensure a good foundation, and the piers supporting these pipes were therefore taken to the same depth as those for the main building. The pipes are of steel, ⅜ of an inch thick and 115 ft. long. A problem here encountered was to connect the three 40-in. discharge pipes, which were converging and rising at an angle of approximately 4 degrees, to the 3-way piece which united them with the 72-in. rising main. Here the pipes were securely fixed at one end to the wall of the building, and expansion pipes were fitted, the supporting piers being so constructed as to allow of free movement. To ensure that these pipes came into line, the flanges of the 40-in. bend above the butterfly valve over the pump were left loose, and, after being set at the correct angle, were drilled and riveted on site, a closing length being left on each section and cut to suit.

The rising main is about 2,130 ft. long, and connects to the delivery or feeder canal. The pipes for this main were 10 ft. long and 5-16-in. plate, each ring, in order to decrease the cost of transport, being in three sections, which were riveted and caulked together on site so as to be perfectly watertight, this being necessary to avoid leakage, with its attendant consequences to the foundations. All riveting and caulking was done by native labour, and very complete tests were made to get the pipe quite tight, finally with entirely satisfactory results, when the trench was filled in. The rising main was fitted with a 24-in. vent pipe to a height of 30 ft. above the 3-way piece.

A trench was dug 10 ft. deep at first, and gradually rising for the concrete piers, which were spaced 10 ft. apart, and were 6 ft. 6 in. wide, 3 ft. 7 in. thick, and shaped to suit the radius of the pipe, these precautions being necessary by reason of the great weight of the pipe when filled with water. This main was securely anchored at each end and twice intermediately, dividing it into three sections, each having an expansion joint in conjunction with an anchorage. It is of interest to note that a difference of 3 ins. was frequently observed in these expansion joints. The piers for the anchorages were half as wide again and twice as thick as the others.

Fuel oil was brought to Wad el Nau by the Sudan Government Railway Oil Service cars from Port Sudan via Atbara and Khartoum. The fuel cars were drawn up on the railway siding alongside the storage tanks, and the electric fuel pumps delivered the oil into the storage tanks. Two fuel storage tanks were provided, each of a capacity of 300 tons, despatched in plates for erection on site. Each tank is fitted with inside and outside ladders and manholes. The tanks were built in three tiers, the two bottom tiers being made of ¼-in. plate and the top tier of 3-16-in. plate. Each tier consists of eight rounds with 2-in. laps; ⅝-in. rivets were employed 1⅞-in. pitch. The total height of each tank is 16 ft. 3 in., and the diameter 32 ft.

The whole of the machinery was shipped to Port Sudan, and conveyed by special trains on arrival of each shipload from Port Sudan to Wad el Nau via Atbara and Khartoum, a distance of over 700

(*Continued on page* 673.)

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SUDAN GUM ROYALTY.

A meeting was held on October 30 of representatives of the Sudan Government and the Sudan Chamber of Commerce, at which the continuance of the fixed rates of gum royalty in 1924 was discussed. The unanimous opinion of the Chamber was that the present system should be continued, and that the existing rates of royalty would be acceptable to the trade, although, naturally, a reduction in the rate would be appreciated. The Director of Commercial Intelligence informed the meeting that he would recommend that the existing rates of royalty be continued next season, and formal notice has been received that this recommendation has been accepted and the rates will therefore be continued, under the same terms, until December 31, 1924.

THE PRAGUE SAMPLES FAIR.

The prospects for the success of the forthcoming Samples Fair at Prague, which will be held from March 16 to 23, are stated to be excellent. The number of definitive applications for space which have been received during the past month exceeds 700, among them a large proportion from abroad. Up to the end of November space had been allotted, among others, to 180 various engineering firms. The timber and wood trade will occupy two entire pavilions, and of particular interest will be the exhibits of furniture made in the country. Connected with the Samples Fair there will a hotel trade exhibition, which will include exhibits of foodstuffs, wines, liqueurs, as well as the entire outfit of hotels and restaurants.

SMYRNA FRUIT MARKET.

Messrs. C. J. Giraud and Co., of Smyrna, report as follows for the week ended December 1:—

The arrivals of sultanas on the Smyrna market since the opening of the season are estimated at 29,400 tons, the sales being put at 27,300 tons. Business in sultanas has been steady throughout the week, and prices show a small gain. Indications point to a stronger market next week.

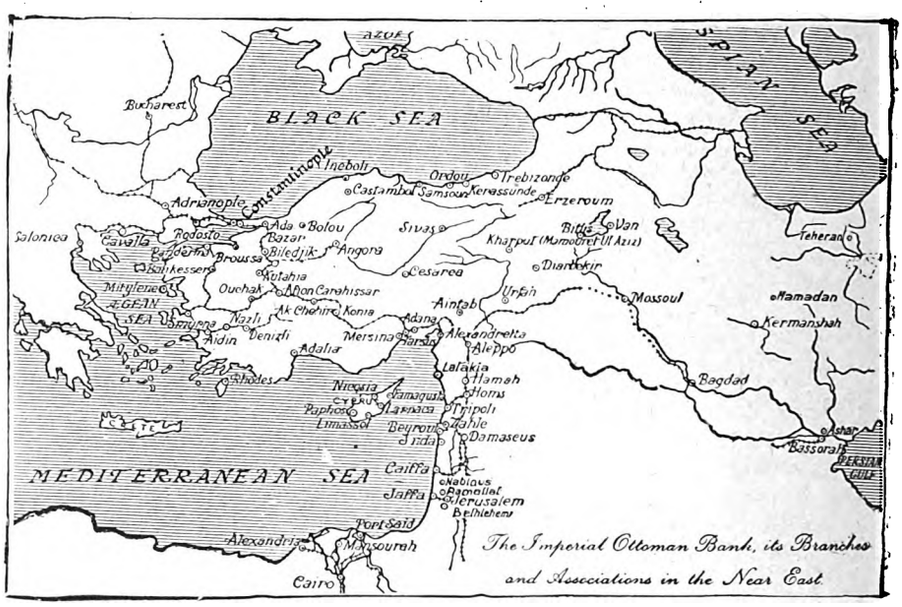
A further report dated December 8 states:—The market closed strong with upward tendency. Purchases have been mainly against Continental orders. There has also been some speculative buying on the strength of the statistical position. U.K. shippers have been keeping off as advices from that quarter would indicate that the Smyrna market has advanced too rapidly and has got beyond the London and Liverpool parities. A summary of the position shows total shipments to date, 26,395 tons; stocks on shippers' hands, 2,405 tons; estimated unsold existences, old and new, 5,000; total, 33,800 tons. The estimated unsold stock of old and new fruit still available is open to verification. The figure of 5,000 tons we give is the generally accepted estimate, although we would at the same time point out that many opinions incline to think that, at the outside, 4,500 tons only remain, whereas others mention up to 6,000 tons as their view. Indications points to a higher level of prices being again reached over next week.

Czecho Slovakia's trade with England up to the end of October was represented by exports to the value of 877,063.051 kc., and imports to the value of 259,796,890 kc., or a balance of trade in favour of Czecho-Slovakia to the extent of 668,266,161 kc. —in English currency about £4,500,000.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN BANK

FOUNDED 1863.

Capital - £10,000,000
Paid-up - £5,000,000
Reserve - £1,250,000



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A. H. REID, Director-General-Adjoint.

Messrs. B. KERESTEDJIAN, J. UNGAR, E. HODLER } Sub-Directors. DJEVIAD BEY. HAMID BEY. NOURY BEY.

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FELIX VERNES.

London Office: 26, THROGMORTON STREET, E.C.2.

Manager: E. W. H. BARRY.
Assistant Manager and Secretary: C. E. L. CORTHORN.
Assistant Manager and Deputy Secretary: R. S. C. PEARCE.
Assistant Manager: W. P. SHEPPARD.

MANCHESTER: 56-60, Cross Street.
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CONSTANTINOPLE.
(Galata. Pera. Stamboul.)

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miles and across two deserts. The Sudan Government Railway officials deserve the highest praise for their excellent organisation. Realising the complicated nature and weight of the machinery, it was delivered in a most expeditious manner, and no part was damaged in transit.

To deal with about 1,000 tons of machinery delivered in the wilds some preparation is required, and for this purpose a special single-track railway, 6 miles long, had to be constructed from the Sudan Government Railway at Wad el Nau railway station to the pumping station, from sidings at which the machinery was unloaded by means of a 10-ton steam crane. The railway siding being 10 ft. higher than the entrance to the pumping station a slipway was constructed between the two, down which all the plant was lowered on rollers to the entrance. Here it was handled by two 15-ton travelling cranes, and lowered an additional 26 ft. on to the floor of the pumping station.

For the excavation of the site preparatory to erection some hundreds of Egyptians from Assuan, who had had previous experience in this class of work, were employed, and when this was completed they were superseded by local Sudanese and West Africans, many of whom were pilgrims working their way either to or from Mecca. A small number of women were also employed on carrying water, bricks, etc. The machinery was finally erected by about 200 natives, with a few Greeks and Italians. Some of the best of the Sudanese workmen had received their training in craftsmanship at the Gordon College, Khartoum, others at the Government Railway workshops at Atbara. These included fitters, blacksmiths, riveters, bricklayers, and carpenters, all of whom, under the supervision of British engineers, did good work, thus affording an excellent testimonial to the training given at the college and the railway workshops.

Trials of Machinery.

Both of the main engines and all the auxiliary machinery were subjected to exhaustive trials before shipment, the results obtained from these trials proving that each of the main engines had an ample margin of power to meet all requirements under actual working conditions, where both the considerable altitude and tropical temperature affect the power developed by the engines. During these trials the fuel consumption and the efficiency of the engines were proved to be in accordance with the requirements. The final trials on site of the whole of the pumping machinery took place in the month of June, 1923, and the regular routine of pumping started in July.

TENDERS INVITED, ETC.

Tenders are invited for the following contracts, and must be made by the dates mentioned.

(Particulars of tenders marked D.O.T. are to be obtained from the Department of Overseas Trade, 35, Old Queen Street, S.W.).

Egypt.

Oils, etc.—The Secretary-General, Ports and Lighthouses Administration, Arsenal, Alexandria, invites tenders for the supply of oils, paints, soap, pitch, and tar required for the financial year 1924-1925. January 7.

General Stores.—The Department of Public Health, Egypt, invite tenders for the supply of clothing, equipment, and general stores required by the Central Stores, Cairo, for the year April 1, 1924, to March 31, 1925. The range of goods and articles required is fairly extensive, and includes soft goods, woollen goods, cutlery, hardware, glassware, earthenware, boots and shoes, brushes and brooms, furniture, wicker articles, oils and paints, etc. January 24 (D.O.T.).

Acids, etc.—The Chemical Department, Cairo, invites tenders in connection with acids and chemicals required for delivery on or about April 1, 1924. A copy of the specification can be obtained on application.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

IMPERIAL BANK OF PERSIA.

Increase of Business.

The thirty-fourth ordinary general meeting of the Imperial Bank of Persia was held on December 21 at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, E.C. Sir Hugh S. Barnes, K.C.S.I., K.C.V.O. (chairman of the bank), presided.

The Manager and Secretary (Mr. Sydney Rogers) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said: Gentlemen,—I do not think I need delay you very long to-day. The report and accounts we have submitted to you, and which I assume you will take as read, show that we have had another successful year. The figures of the balance-sheet, so far as they differ from those of a year ago, indicate an increase of business. The profit and loss account is almost identical with that of last year, and you will see that we have again been able to announce a final dividend of 6s. a share. There is, therefore, not much room for comment.

Events in Persia, also, so far as the bank is concerned, have been of a more usual and ordinary character during the year under review—that is to say, up to September 20 last—but since that date there has occurred a political development which may have very important consequences. You will remember that when I addressed you last December the Ghaven-es-Saltaneh was still in power as Prime Minister, and it was expected he would hold his position for some time. His tenure of office did not, however, last very long. He resigned in the following February, and a new Cabinet was formed with Mostufi-ul-Mumalik as its head. This gentleman was in turn succeeded in June by Mushir-ed-Dowleh, who had been Premier in the early months of 1922. Throughout these rapid changes of Government, which unfortunately have not been uncommon in Persia, the Sirdar Sepah, the Commander-in-Chief, known to us as Reza Khan, was able to retain his position as Minister of War, and when, in October last, Mushir-ed-Dowleh decided to resign, his Majesty the Shah, who was about to leave for Europe, appointed the Sirdar Sepah to be Prime Minister in his place.

I alluded last year to the success which had attended the Sirdar Sepah's organisation of the army, and to the tranquillity throughout the country which had resulted from his control of the military department. He will now have a far wider sphere for the exercise of his administrative ability, and, though it is unwise for us to indulge in prophecies about Persia, especially at such a distance from the scene, still it does seem possible that with a loyal and popular soldier at the head of the Government, who is also in control of the army, Persia may look forward to a much more stable administration than she has possessed for a very long time.

Much, I expect, will depend upon the support which the new Prime Minister is able to give to the reforms initiated by the American Financial Adviser. It seems to me that the military and financial departments are equally interested in these reforms, for, unless law and order are maintained, no improvement can be hoped for in the collection of revenue, and unless the revenue is largely increased it will be difficult to maintain the army at its present strength. With the army commander at the head of affairs, there is reason to hope that the two departments will heartily co-operate in the task of improving the finances of the country.

So far as we have been able to ascertain, Dr. Millspaugh and his staff have made considerable progress during the past year. Expenditure has been cut down and brought under stricter control; all the sources of revenue have been explored and the methods of collection revised; revenue inspectors have been appointed in most of the provinces, and efforts are being made to bring the assessment of the land revenue up to date. It will be interesting to see whether Dr. Millspaugh is able to balance his budget for the coming year. I have no doubt he will ultimately be able to do so if he is given adequate support and time to permit of the development of his reforms. We have not failed to shoulder our share of responsibility, for the bank has been able to give valuable assistance to the Govern-

'BALKAN' NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY

FOUNDED 1895.

	Levas
Capital paid up - - - - -	5,000,000
Total reserves as per December 31st, 1922	93,400,000
Premium Income during 1922 - - -	98,300,000
Amounts insured of Life Branch exceed	300,000,000

Branches maintained: Fire, Life, Marine, Casualty and Re-insurance of all branches.

HEAD OFFICE: SOFIA, BULGARIA.

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ment in the way of advancing them, on good security, fairly large amounts, repayable at fixed intervals, so as to enable the Financial Department to tide over the difficult period before the reforms come fully into operation.

It has been stated at previous general meetings that the Persian Government has always scrupulously kept their engagements to us, and my experience since I became chairman of the bank enables me to endorse the statement made by my predecessors.

You will probably have noticed that we have opened during the year two new branches in Persia; one, a small branch on the Caspian Sea at Barfrush, which we hope will assist in the reopening of trade with Russia, of which there are indications; and the other at Maidan-i-Naftun—that is to say, at the oilfields of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Both these branches were opened at the request of the Financial Adviser, who is anxious to make greater use of our provincial branches as Government treasuries in connection with the collection of revenue.

The report was adopted.

MORUMS ORIENTAL STORES.

Better Outlook.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of Morums Oriental Stores, Ltd., was held on December 21 at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. T. Paton presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. P. Nichols) having read the notice convening the meeting and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said that, turning to the profit and loss account, on the debit side there appeared loss on trading, £23,398. It was small consolation to reflect that that was materially different from last year's loss of £143,739, and he would refer later in his remarks to this matter. To that loss of £23,398 had been added the various items for interest and discount charges, £7,637, against £6,656; depreciation, £5,055, against £5,132; office expenses, £1,688, against £1,455; and directors' remuneration, £1,236, against £1,223. The increase in the interest and discount charges was due to the heavy bank overdraft which was being carried for the greater part of the year. After taking in a small amount for transfer fees they were left with a loss of £42,707. These results could not fail to be a source of profound disappointment to the shareholders, as, indeed, they were to the board. But he hoped to be able to show them that they were by no means such as to justify them in losing hope for the future of the undertaking.

They would recollect that at their last meeting they were informed that the overhead charges had been reduced, and that it was hoped the provision of the new money would enable them to start the 1923 summer campaign with a well-assorted stock purchased in the European markets under expert supervision. They had every reason to expect that the resultant increase in sales would enable them to carry on, if not at a substantial profit, at any rate without further loss. Unfortunately various and inevitable delays were encountered in the making of the issue of shares, and it was not until the end of May last that the money wherewith to purchase the new stocks became available. It would be obvious, therefore, to them that the new money could not have any influence upon the results of the period now under review, which ended on June 30, and it was not until the opening of the present winter season that the new stock began to arrive in any quantity in Egypt. Here again fortune had not favoured them. They were ready in mid-September for the opening of the winter season, but this year the warm weather was unduly prolonged, and Monsieur Theulé wrote to them on October 30 from Cairo that summer clothes were still being worn. Naturally that had had a prejudicial effect upon the returns of the last few weeks—weeks which should produce the best results of the year—and although sales from July to November had been some 20 per cent. in excess of those for the corresponding period of 1922, they had not obtained the results they hoped for from their new and attractive stocks.

That experience was not confined to their stores alone, and they were confidently informed by Monsieur Theulé, who had only lately returned from Egypt, that they had had their full share of whatever business was going. That opinion was shared by their auditors in Egypt, Messrs. Price Waterhouse Peat and Co., who, in forwarding the accounts to June last, made the following spontaneous comment:—"Too much importance must not be attached to the unsatisfactory result. In our opinion the business has made considerable progress during the past year towards a position when profits can be earned, and the house now has a better reputation with the public than was the case during the immediate past. . . . The percentage of gross profit earned is now reasonable, and given settled conditions in Egypt and adequate stocks, there seems no reason why the business should not earn a reasonable profit." Messrs. Price Waterhouse Peat and Co. added that:—"The outlook for the season in Egypt is good, advance bookings being satisfactory, and, if there is a steady stream of tourists, it should be of some help to the Boulac Store, owing to its excellent position."

The report was adopted.

COMPANY NOTICES.

AGRICULTURAL BANK OF EGYPT FOUR per CENT. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED SHARES. The National Bank of Egypt announces that COUPON No. 39 of the Agricultural Bank of Egypt 4 per Cent. CUMULATIVE PREFERRED Shares due 1st January, 1924, will be PAID at its offices in Cairo, Alexandria and London (6 and 7, King William-street, E.C.4).

COMPANY NOTES AND REPORTS.

Assam Railways.

The Assam Railways and Trading Company has declared a dividend on the "A" stock at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable December 22 for the half-year ended June 30; on the pre-preference "A" shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, payable January 4, for the half-year ending December 31; and on the new 6 per cent. preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable January 4, for the half-year ending December 31.

Morums Oriental Stores.

The accounts of Morums Oriental Stores for the year to June 30 shows, after charging London expenses, interest, and discount charges and directors' remuneration, making provision for depreciation of furniture, etc., and writing off loss on realisation of fixed assets, that there is a loss for the year of £42,707. The accounts show revised capital. The directors state that by the date at which the first moiety of the new capital became available, thus enabling the Board to pursue the policy referred to at the meeting, practically the whole of the financial year had expired, and in consequence the benefits to be derived from the new capital will not be apparent until the next accounts are submitted.

Ocean Salvage and Towage.

The accounts of the Ocean Salvage and Towage Co. for the year 1922 show a loss of £49,478. The heavy depression in shipping, which began in the summer of 1921 and continued throughout 1922, and the Turkish crisis, with the resulting unsettled conditions in the Near East, were partly responsible for the heavy loss. The current year's operations have already shown a decided improvement on previous financial periods. Twenty-five steamers have been salved down to date, and trade with the Black Sea is on the increase.

Harrisons and Crosfield.

The directors of Harrisons and Crosfield have declared the following dividends:—On the cumulative preference shares at 6 per cent. per annum for the three months to December 31 and on the preferred ordinary shares at 10 per cent. per annum for the six months to December 31, both less tax at 4s. 6d. in the £. Warrants will be posted on December 31 to holders on the register at that date, including approved transferees in respect of transfers lodged not later than December 15.

Oilfields Finance.

The accounts of the Oilfields Finance Corporation for the year to June 30 show a loss of £2,958. The directors state that as the result of the tax adjustment the balance at the debit of profit and loss is slightly less than a year ago. During the year the corporation's large holding in the Roumanian Consolidated Oilfields has been exchanged for fully-paid shares in the Phœnix Oil and Transport Company. The corporation's extensive interests in Russia are still subject to the "nationalisation" decree of the Soviet Government, and it is regretted that no progress can yet be reported in the negotiations for their release. Although the course of prices for petroleum and its products has remained unfavourable and has been reflected in a further decline of share values, the directors firmly believe in an eventual recovery in the world demand for these commodities. Actuated by this belief, they have subjected to expert geological examination a number of oil propositions which seem superficially attractive. One, at least, of these propositions is of great promise, and if conditions improve it will be placed before the public. Meeting, 48, Cannon Street, E.C., December 28, noon.

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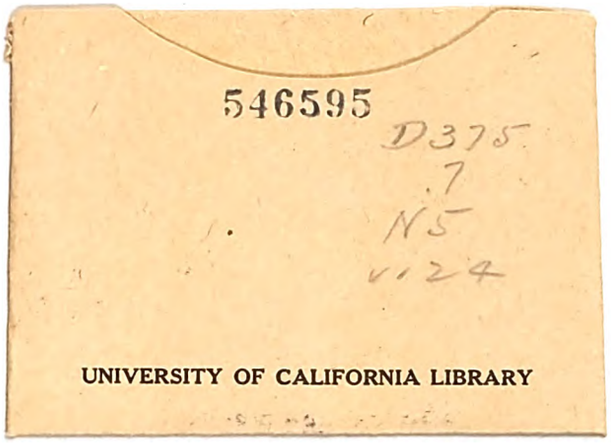
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